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Jordanians elect 12th Parliament

New House retains same political trends but with new faces

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

JORDANIANS yesterday elected a new Lower House of Parliament that, except for the presence of a liberal woman, will be composed essentially of the same political forces dominating the 11th Parliament but which will be represented by many new faces.

With results of 17 of the 20 electoral districts declared by press time (6.00 a.m. Tuesday), around 30 of the 64 incumbents who sought reelection retained their seats, putting at around 50 the number of freshmen in the new House.

The 12th Parliament will have around 16 Islamic Action Front (IAF) members backed by at least two independent Islamists who could support the front's political and socio-economic agenda. There will be another two independent Islamists who may support the IAF on its social programme but who could withhold such backing on issues like the front's opposition to peace negotiations with Israel and the government's socio-economic policies which are based on the economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

These numbers compare with the presence of 23 members of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, which is the backbone of the IAF, in the 11th Parliament, who were then backed by about the same strength of deputies in either group.

It was too early to judge whether the IAF had actually lost or increased its voting strength as a result of the one-person, one-vote formula since no final figures were immediately available on the actual number of votes the front's candidates received in Monday's polls. The Kingdom's first multi-party elections in nearly four decades.

The poll also saw the first Jordanian woman entering Parliament with the victory of Toujan Faisal, a long-time liberal activist who won a seat set aside for Circassians in the Third District of Amman against incumbent Mansour Murad and another woman, Jeanette Mufti.

The third woman candidate in Monday's elections, Nadia Bushnaq who sought a Muslim seat from Zarqa, lost her bid.

The following are the official IAF members who won the polls:

Abdul Aziz Jaber
Abdul Munem Abu Zant
Ibrahim Zeid Keilani
Hammam Saad
Ahmad Kasasbeh
Suleiman Rimoni
Daifallah Al Moumani
Mohammad Oweida
Bader Riasi
Bassam Emoush
Mohammad Al Haj
Theib Anis
Abdullah Akaileh
Ahmad Kofahi
Abdul Rahim Akour

The headline Islamists who are likely to support the political and socio-economic programme of the IAF are:

Deeb Abdullah Hattab
Abdul Majeed Aqtash

The independent Islamists who are likely to support the IAF on social issues are:

Abdul Baqi Jammo
Jamal Saraiab
Mahmoud Huweimeil

The Lower House will also include a number of leftist and pan-Arab deputies comparable to that in the 11th Parliament. They are:

Khalil Haddadin
Abdul Hafez Shekhanbeh
Bassam Haddadin
Abdul Karim Dughmi
Mohammad Daoudieh
Samir Habashneh
Mustafa Shmeikat
Toujan Faisal

Following are the unofficial results:

AMMAN

First District:
Abdul Aziz Jaber (IAF) 8,200 votes
Hammad Abu Jamous 4,078 votes
Theib Hamed Hattab (Islamist) 3,469 votes

Second District
Abdul Munem Abu Zant (IAF) 9,107 votes
Hamzeh Mansour (IAF) 8,750 votes
Mohammad Thuwaieb votes 5,201

Third District
Ibrahim Zeid Keilani (IAF) 7,811 votes
Taher Al Masri
Ali Abu Ragheb

Toujan Faisal (Circassian)
Khalil Haddadin (Christian)

Fourth District
Anwar Hadid 6,329 votes
Mohammad Huneiti 6,310

Fifth District
Hammam Saad
Khaled Ajarmeh
Abid Al Bakhit
Mifteh Al Lawzi
Munis Sobar

Sixth District
Abdul Hafez Shkhanbeh
Abdul Majid Al Aqtash
Sahmih Farah (Christian)

Karak
Abdul Hadi Majali 3,867
Mahmoud Hawaimel 3,561
Mansour Ben Tarif 2,988
Ahmad Kassasbeh (IAF) 2,892
Jamil Al Hashoush 2,721
Samir Habashneh 2,597
Jamal Saraiab 2,438
Nazih Ammarin 1,072 votes
Hani Hijjazin 1,024 votes

Jerash
Mufleh Rahaimi 4,893
Sulaiman Al Saad Khalaf
Raimouni (IAF) 3,513

Ajloun
Ahmad Qudah 2,955
Daifallah Al Moumani (IAF) 2,761 votes
Farah Rabadi (Christian) 850 votes

Ramtha and Bani Kananah
Fawaz Al Zoubi 5,492 votes
Tala Obeidat 4,671 votes
Ibrahim Samara 4,165 votes

Koura and northern Jordan Valley
Hatem Ghazawi 5,151 votes
Nader Zuhairat 3,811 votes

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King voices satisfaction with voting, sees more democracy, pluralism and rights

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday voiced satisfaction with the voting process of the Kingdom's first multi-party elections in nearly four decades and expressed hope that the winners in the polls would live up to their responsibilities towards their elections and the Jordanian people.

The King, while touring some of the polling centres and media facilities, also said the election would consolidate the democratisation process he launched in 1989 with the first general elections in 22 years.

"It has always been a source of pride to hand over powers to people who are ready to shoulder responsibilities in shaping their future," the King told reporters at a press centre set up to offer services to the media at the Royal Cultural Centre.

"I hope that we will see legislators who will be able to carry out their duties because we all have to bear the responsibilities at this sensitive time towards the future," the King said.

"We are on the road to more democracy, more freedom and more respect for human rights," the King said. "What we hope for is that this parliament will serve citizens and will be far away from slogans and loud voices and that (the elected deputies) shoulder their responsibilities."



His Majesty King Hussein Monday visits the press centre for elections at the Royal Culture Centre (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

history and planning for the future" through the elections. The King told reporters at the press centre his decision to endorse the introduction of the one-person, one-vote system was aimed at "putting matters in their right perspectives" and in line with the "requirements of the constitution, which calls for equality among all citizens."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who returned home Monday after a visit to Luxembourg, also said the elections reflected Jordan's commitment to democracy and belief that stability could be only through popular participation.

The Crown Prince expressed pride in the country and its people, "who are making its

himself was a Muslim and was proud of belonging to the faith. Jordan has both Muslims and Christians and the two communities have progressed well together, he said, adding that he found no reason or ground to differentiate between people on the basis of faith.

All shades and schools of thought are represented in the National Charter, which was drawn up by a group of leaders representing all ideologies and

(Continued on page 3)

Jordanians cast votes in festive mood

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

JORDANIANS were in a festive mood yesterday as they went to the polls Monday in the Kingdom's first multi-party elections since 1956.

Candidates bussed their supporters to the polling centres, security forces kept a close watch, and officials maintained a no-interference-but-no-nonsense-either approach to a closely-fought battle for the 80 seats in the Lower House of Parliament.

Businessmen in smart Western-style suits rubbed shoulders with farmers in their traditional flowing robes lining up to vote while women in bright embroidered bedouin thobes and young girls in American jeans jostled each other at segregated polling centres to endorse their representatives for the next four years.

The country observed a public holiday to facilitate the voting process, which crowned a largely lacklustre but hectic three-week period of campaigning by some 550 candidates, including three women, in the 20 electoral districts in the eight governorates from Irbid in the north to Maan in the south.

By the time formal campaigning ended Sunday, with the parliamentary hopefuls estimated to have spent over JD 40 million in trying to win the hearts and minds of the voters, the number of candidates, who ranged from a former prime minister and several former ministers to bedouin leaders and farmers and a taxi driver, had shrunk to 534.

Initial turnout on Monday was disappointing, with less than 20 per cent of the voters who collected their voting cards turning up to exercise their right before 3 p.m., but it picked up in late afternoon and rose to 68 per cent by the time polling centres closed at 7 p.m. after 12 hours of voting.

Ideological and political differences aside, almost all candidates sought to ensure maximum votes by offering free rides to supporters to the polling centres. In many Third World countries it is a violation of the law to offer or accept such transport since it is considered an "inducement."

But on the other hand, many Amman residents travelled to the villages of their origin to cast their precious vote under the new one-person, one-vote formula to relatives and clan members or friends.

The Ministry of Information Monday released an English text of the 1986 Election Law, which was adopted after slight amendments by the 11th Parliament elected in November 1989, and into which the one-person, one-vote formula was incorporated under a Royal Decree in August this year.

It appeared to surprise many journalists who have come here to cover the polls to realise that the change in the law, which had drawn an almost year-long heated debate in political circles, actually meant only removing "s" from the word "candidates" wherever it is used in an article and amending another article in the 1986 law.

The often-heard question from foreign journalists was why the change did not extend to the structure of electoral districts, and officials were heard explaining that this was an issue that His Majesty King Hussein has promised to address in due course of time.

There was no definite means to assess the outcome of the elections since the change in the Election Law had scrambled all givens from the 1989 elections.

Straw polls — as it was originally devised in Europe many years ago — and exit polls — as it is applied accurately today with computers and an array of varyingly



confusing parameters have yet to find their way into the Jordanian election scene.

But that did not discourage candidates' voting agents, maintaining a constant vigil close to the balloting booth in the polling centres, to arrive at calculated guesses while assessing the fortunes/misfortunes of their mentors. However, one would never know how accurate their assessment was since there was no scientific compilation of the data.

A ban on campaigning on election day went largely ignored in many areas where rival camps staged literally last-minute lobbying at the gates of the government-schools-turned-polling centres.

Teenagers and small boys wearing sashes and T-shirts emblazoned with appeals from candidates handed out fliers to voters, many of whom openly trotted badges with their favourite candidates.

Women campaigners were out in strength at the gates of polling centres for women.

As young bantams the name of their favourite candidates at the entrance of a polling centre for women in Bag'a, voters crowded at the gate on a narrow road above which banners screamed promises of better services and democracy.

"I voted for the son of the camp," said an old woman dressed in an embroidered traditional Palestinian dress as she left the centre in Jordan's largest Palestinian refugee camp, which is part of the Balqa Governorate electoral district.

The rooms of a girls' school in Sweileh, where the voting booths were located in one of the Fifth District's polling

centres, were relatively quiet while young girls and women at the entrance of the school encouraged voters to elect their favourite candidate, handing fliers.

By and large, security forces, particularly policemen posted at strategic spots and inside and outside the polling centres, went out of their way to drop their formal attitudes and be cooperative with the voters.

"We are under standing orders not only to avoid friction but also to do everything we can to facilitate the process," said a police captain at a Jabal Amman polling centre as he gently guided an elderly woman to the right booth.

No serious violation of law and order was reported. If there were any problems, then they were sorted out away from the public eye and the prying media.

Gunsshots were heard in one or two areas, but then it transpired that they were fired in the air by supporters greeting the arrival of their candidates doing rounds of the polling centres.

In Zarqa, the mood, barring a couple of incidents, was one of relaxation and festivity. Women at Al Yamama Girls School in the Nuzhah District were dressed up for the occasion and with the polling centre officials.

In the Jabal Abyadh suburb of Zarqa, a fight between two Bani Hassan contenders prompted police to intervene and seal the area. Children in that neighbourhood were seen chasing a bus, apparently of a rival contender from the area.

In the evening the mood changed. Enthusiasm and fervour grew stronger. The Fifth District, most of the houses were empty, the people preferred to stay in the streets, some campaigning for their candidates, while others were just "enjoying the atmosphere... watching people voting and seeing how the mood goes."

68% of cardholders turn out to vote

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sixty-eight per cent of the 1,203 million registered voters who had collected their voting cards turned out to the polls Monday in Jordan's first multi-party elections since 1956.

Over 821,000 voters took part in the polls to elect 80 deputies for the 12th Parliament from among 534 candidates who contested the elections in the 20 electoral districts.

The largely expected turnout was about five per cent higher than that at the 1989 elections when 63.29 per cent of the registered voters who had collected their cards cast their ballots.

The total number of registered voters in the Kingdom from among the 3.2 million population in 1989 was 1.51 million while the total number of eligible voters — all those above the age of 19 — was around 1.8 million before excluding members of the security forces who are not allowed to vote. One-and-a-half million eligible voters out of a total of 1.9 million over the age of 19 registered for voting this year.

The Northern Bedouins District reported higher voter turnout with over 92 per cent of the registered voters who had picked up their voting cards participating in the polls while Maan Governorate had the largest voter participation in 1989 with a 76.08 per cent turnout.

The governorate of Karak had the lowest turnout in 1989 with only 56 per cent of the 35,722 registered voters who picked up their voting cards showing up at the polls. The lowest voter turnout this year was reported in the Second District of Amman.

The voting process kicked off to a slow start but more voters started showing up at the polls late in the afternoon and the process proceeded with no major difficulties or

irregularities reported at any of the 2,906 polling centres.

Some voters, however, complained that they were not allowed to vote since they were registered in more than one voting district. But polling officials later said they were instructed to allow voters with dual registration to cast their ballot as long as they voted only once.

Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad had earlier said that some 70,000 names of eligible voters appeared in more than one constituency in the final voters list but that the ministry had pointed out that to polling officials and that they would not be able to vote more than once.

Other voters complained that they were denied their right to vote because unknown persons had collected their voting cards without their knowledge or consent. They said polling officials refused to allow them to vote even though their names were on the voters lists.

Some reports said that a number of candidates collected the voting cards of voters in their constituencies and did not hand them over in time or intentionally kept them back in a bid to preempt the voters from casting their ballots for others.

Ministry of Interior sources had said that some groups were buying voting cards and destroying them but added that the ministry was under instructions to issue new voting cards to those who could not locate the document.

Many of the voters voted in constituencies to which they were transferred by candidates who wanted to increase their chances in the polls. The "immigrant voters" were expected to have had a strong impact on the outcome of the elections in some constituencies where the race was closely contested. The elections took place



A 72-year-old woman votes in Monday's elections (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

under a new election law that replaced the bloc-voting system with the one-person, one-vote formula. Under the old system, voters had as many votes as the number of parliamentary seats allocated for their constituencies.

About 10 out of the 20 registered political parties took part in the elections with the Islamic Action Front fielding 36 candidates.

The elections followed a lacklustre campaign in which major political issues took the backseat to matters of direct concerns to the constituencies.

The focus on services in the three-week electioneering period was partly attributed to the introduction of the new electoral rule that had candidates vying for the votes among their immediate tribe or local supporters. Accordingly, the campaign was provincial with little mention of the major political and economic issues facing the country.

The failure of the previous Parliament to deliver on many of the promises that candidates made during their politically oriented campaigns in 1989 also decreased public interest in slogans and political rhetoric.

ic. That and the uncertainty about holding the polls after the signing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord on Sept. 13 dampened enthusiasm for the elections.

Observers say that a change in the issues with which the electorate was mainly concerned also contributed to the absence of major political issues from the campaigns.

While alleged government corruption and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-sponsored economic adjustment programme dominated public attention in 1989, unemployment, poverty and other service related concerns were the major issues in which the public showed interest in 1993.

The campaign picked up steam, however, after the Higher Court of Justice revoked a Ministry of Interior decision to ban public rallies and Islamists, leftists and independent candidates invited their followers to public gathering where they made fiery speeches on the peace process, democracy and the need to build roads, find more jobs and fight poverty.

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Simple majority for Majali in Parliament

(Continued from page 1)

accusations that the government interfered in the Nov. 8 elections, asserting that the executive was neutral and the polls fair and honest.

The government violated no norms by not resigning after conducting the elections, Dr. Majali said, adding that nothing in the Constitution requires his Cabinet to quit and that the designation letter from His Majesty King Hussein mentioned holding the elections as one of the mission which the government had to fulfill.

In their speeches, deputies accused the government of showing disrespect for the legislature, violating the norms by not resigning, and practising nepotism in senior government appointments, among other things.

Dr. Majali said the 11th Parliament was not consulted when the Cabinet was formed because it was not in session, and last week's ministerial change was not discussed with deputies during meetings he held with them because it was not yet decided upon.

"Discussions with deputies (prior to the ministerial change) was meant to explain issues ... and informing the deputies of them," said Dr. Majali.

He said the exclusion of deputies from the Cabinet was required by the higher interests of the country so that deputies would concentrate on legislation.

"This is a point of view," he said.

Dr. Majali said the Nov. 8 elections were held in a democratic atmosphere governed by the law. Accordingly, the "elections were free, fair and honest ... and the government remained neutral without allowing any irregularities," said Dr. Majali.

Responding to deputies' assertions that the government unilaterally changed the Election Law against the will of the major political parties and figures and without the national dialogue it had promised, Dr. Majali said the introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula into the electoral process was in accordance with the Constitution that guaranteed equal rights for all citizens.

He said the change, which cancelled the bloc-voting system, came after "a national dialogue with all shades of the political spectrum and in response to a popular wish," adding that the King had endorsed the electoral amendments.

Dr. Majali said the law allowed for contesting the amendments in the Higher Court of Justice but no one protested its constitutionality.

Responding to deputies' demands, Dr. Majali said the government would cooperate with the House to produce a modern election law that corresponds with the "aspirations."

"We reaffirm our commitment to the orientation adopted by the National Charter that ... Islamic Sharia is the main source of legislation," the prime minister said in response to criticism by Islamic deputies who said the policy statement did not say the government would move toward implementing Islam.

Also in response to Islamic Action Front deputies, Dr. Majali said school curricula are being developed by Jordanian experts in keeping with the law, values and traditions of the nation. IAF deputies had warned against altering the school curricula to suit the requirements of the era of normalisation of relations with Israel.

Dr. Majali reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive Middle East peace on the basis of international legitimacy and without compromising any of the country's rights.

"Just and comprehensive peace is what this government is seeking," he said, adding that Jordan is coordinating its stands with other Arab countries and not responsible for the "backward state of the Arab World."

Dr. Majali pointed out the agenda for peace talks with Israel is not a peace treaty and that no such treaty will be reached without the approval of the legislature.

"The government will not adopt any peace treaty without the approval of the House," he said.

He said the Kingdom has protested the Israeli higher court ruling to assume responsibility of Muslim holy places in Jerusalem, adding that the Jerusalem Department of Awqaf, which is run by the Ministry of Awqaf, is still in charge of these places.

Dr. Majali said Jordan supported the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel self-rule accord because it includes positive achievements for the Palestinian people whom he said Jordan will continue to support.

Emphasising the importance of national unity and equality among all citizens, Dr. Majali said: "National unity is not a slogan but a belief and practice."

The Cabinet's decentralisation programme, which was attacked by many deputies, was praised by Dr. Majali as an effective way for improving the performance of the government bureaucracy.

Dr. Majali said his government supported demands to elect the mayor and council of Amman, that are currently appointed by the government.

The prime minister outlined an 11-point programme for dealing with the problems of poverty and employment and promised measures to strengthen the agricultural and industrial sector and the investment environment.

He said the government will work to improve the standards of living of public servants and army personnel adding that the government will work out a programme that ensures that subsidised basic goods benefit those who need them.

The prime minister also said the government would work to provide electric, water and other services to areas that lack them.

Though the government has information that enables it to respond to "slandering remarks" made by some deputies, it will not do so in order to protect national interests and democracy, Dr. Majali said.

"We will not respond to personal attacks and violations of the norms of dialogue," said Dr. Majali, who drew applause from deputies who opposed him when he apologised for statements made by some speculators against deputies who withheld themselves from the parliament.

"I apologise to any brother hurt by words made (by speculators)," said Dr. Majali.

Deputies heap criticism and praise on Cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

Mifleh Ruheimi (Jerash), who was the first to speak Wednesday, refuted allegations by some deputies that the government includes among its ranks members of Al Ahd Party, the founder of which is Karak Deputy Abdul Hadi Majali, the premier's brother.

"Me and my colleagues in Al Ahd Party had hoped that the Cabinet would include a minister representing us, but the party was excluded," Mr. Ruheimi said.

Ibrahim Zeid Keilani (Amman Third District), a prominent member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), joined by other front members and independents like Saleh Irsheidat (Irbid), a former minister of youth, criticised the premier for not consulting the deputies before announcing his government reshuffle.

Dr. Keilani and Karak Deputy Nazeem Ammanin claimed that Dr. Majali did not appoint the right person at the right post and that personal affiliations predominate the shape of the new Cabinet.

Mansour Ben Tareef (Karak) focused his speech on the economy in general and the agricultural sector in particular, requesting a unified source for agricultural loans.

Fifteen deputies presented a petition to the prime minister requesting that the interest on agricultural loans be written off, the debts rescheduled for a period not less than 10 years, the farmers be given a three-year grace period, loans less than JD 10,000 be forgiven and that all the above be included in the 1994 budget.

Some of the deputies who signed the petition conditioned their signature to the application of the above to the small farmers.

Suleiman Al Saed (Jerash) attacked what he described as the government's non-Islamic policies in education, media and culture, calling for more adherence to the codes of Sharia in school curricula.

Islamic Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant, a fiery orator and a popular figure since the 1989 elections, set the audience roaring in laughter several times with cynical remarks.

Mohammad Owaida, (IAF, Balqa) first refused to speak until the television cameras covering the event be removed. But his request was denied by Speaker Taher Masri and he went ahead.

Israel and PLO exchange drafts

(Continued from page 1)

The agency said the two sides agreed to Israel freeing about 3,000 Palestinians in the coming days.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told reporters Wednesday after meeting President Hosni Mubarak that Washington would not object to a short delay.

"If they decided they need a few more days to get it right, it's important to get it right," Mr. Christopher said, siding with Israel in being less worried about the exact deadline (see separate story).

'Self-rule will calm violence'

(Continued from page 1)

and Israeli settlers.

An announcement of renewed Syrian-Israeli talks was expected in Damascus on Thursday, after Mr. Christopher meets for the second time this week with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Syria has indicated it would favour a meeting between Mr. Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton, but Mr. Christopher has said any decision on this must be made by Mr. Clinton himself.

Qadhafi alerts Libyans to possible attack

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan Leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi warned Libyans Tuesday to be "ready to repel a new offensive," Libyan Television said.

In a speech in Tripoli's western suburbs, Col. Qadhafi urged Libyans to be prepared, just as the older generation had "chosen resistance and death against Italian tanks and German battleships" in World War II.

Col. Qadhafi has been touring the country for daily meetings with demonstrators protesting at the decision by the United Nations on Dec. 1 to freeze Libyan assets abroad and to stop deliveries to Libya's petrochemical industry.

The new sanctions are in addition to an air and military embargo imposed in April last year.

They are intended to put pressure on Libya to hand over for two men suspected of bombing a Pan Am flight which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988, killing 270 people and a French UTA airliner that exploded over Niger the following year with the loss of 170 lives.

Libya has refused to hand them over to Britain or the United States on the grounds that they would not get a fair trial, although it has agreed to a trial in a neutral country, probably Switzerland.

Film loses Lornho backing

Lornho, the international conglomerate, has withdrawn financial backing from a controversial film about the Lockerbie bombing which it is co-financing with Libya, the Financial Times reported Wednesday.

Stephen Walls and Peter Harper, two of Lornho's newly-appointed non-executives, persuaded the Lornho board to end its involvement in the film, the paper said.

They are also expected to press for Lornho to withdraw from further cooperation with Libya, which owns a third of Lornho's Metropole hotels subsidiary.

Dieter Bock, the German joint chief executive, was also keen to abandon the film project, which had been started on the initiative of Tyny Rowland, his fellow joint chief executive.

The \$300,000 (\$949,500) film was to be made by Allan Francovich, a U.S. producer who has made a number of highly praised documentaries about the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. He said he had not been informed of the decision.

He added: "I am not going to be stopped (from completing the film) by anyone."

Mr. Rowland said he and Mr. Bock were "at one" on the Libyan issue. While the board had decided to stop the financing of the film "for the time being," he said that work already completed was of commercial value to Lornho.

Mr. Rowland has accumulated what he believes to be evidence that Libya was not responsible for the hunting and reportedly passed the information to British ministers.

Canada offers Jordan remote-sensing technology

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is to employ, with the help of Canadian high technology, the use of remote-sensing radar to help it monitor area tectonics and prepare geological surveys.

This was revealed yesterday by the Canadian ambassador to Jordan Andrew Robinson and the general director of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, Dr. Oqlah Dhaimat, in a briefing hosted by the centre to celebrate the visit of the GlobeSAR remote sensing aircraft.

Dr. Dhaimat explained that the centre was acting as the local project coordinator because of its expertise in the field of geological surveying and because of its extensive geographic information network.

Mr. Robinson described Canada's technological leadership in the field of remote sensing and reiterated that the visit is part of the ongoing technology transfer and skills development programme between Canada and Jordan. He hoped that this project would enhance and extend the warm friendship between the two countries.

The GlobeSAR programme is based at the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing in Ottawa, Ontario. GlobeSAR, which has already carried out several demonstration flights in Taiwan, China, Thailand, Vietnam and Kenya, carried out such flights yesterday, spanning three hours, for the purposes of land surveying and data collection over Al Azraq, north and south Amman, Jerash and Petra.

Dr. Vernon Singhroy, project coordinator for Jordan said, the visit, which concludes Friday, also involves supplying the Royal Geographic Centre with the translated results of the survey flights.

The GlobeSAR team travels to Tunisia and Morocco next. Dr. Singhroy also explained how the flight is part of a larger project to be crowned in the spring of 1995 with the launch of the Canadian radar satellite (RadarSAT) which will scan the earth for the next five years taking data and supplying information every five days in the tropics and every three days elsewhere.

"This satellite will join two other radar satellites from the European Community and Japan," assistant coordinator Robert St. Jean said.

"Some major goals of the project are to monitor environmental pollution, map geological features and area tectonics in the hope of creating a comprehensive land information system. The system has also proven beneficial to hydrology, hydrocarbon exploration and in various other commercial applications," Dr. Singhroy said.

The second technical workshop, introduction to radar and its applications, was also concluded on Sunday. The first such workshop took place early in 1993.

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Singer who killed foreigners attacks guard and injures self

CAIRO (Agencies) — A de-aged small-time pop singer held in a mental hospital for fatally shooting four foreigners in a luxury hotel's coffee shop attacked a guard Tuesday in an apparent escape attempt, police said.

Subdued and returned to his cell, the singer, Sabar Farhat Abu Al Ala, was not thought to be seriously wounded, a police spokesman said, speaking anonymously under usual departmental practice.

Mr. Abu Al Ala has been incarcerated in the mental hospital in suburban Ahmaseya since shortly after his shooting rampage on Oct. 26 in a coffee shop of Cairo's swank Semiramis Inter-Continental Hotel.

Witnesses said Mr. Abu Al Ala shouted "Allahu Akbar" as he opened fire with a handgun. Two Americans and a Frenchman died at the scene. An official of the Italian Justice Ministry succumbed to his injuries after being flown home to Italy.

The police spokesman said Tuesday's incident began when Mr. Abu Al Ala asked police guard Mohammad Helmi Ali to let him leave his cell to go to the toilet. The guard complied and escorted the prisoner, but Mr. Abu Al Ala turned on Ali and began beating him. Responding to the policeman's cries for help, hospital personnel restrained the patient, police said.

Left alone in his cell, the police spokesman said, Mr. Abu Al Ala smashed his head repeatedly against the concrete wall. Staff again curbed his outburst and hospitalised him for treatment of cuts on his skull. His condition was not considered serious.

Mr. Abu Al Ala, 28, reportedly told interrogators he shot up the Semiramis cafe to avenge the terror done to Bosnian Muslims, the deaths of children, rapes of women, destruction of mosques.

Government spokesmen repeatedly have denied links between him and Muslim extremists whose anti-government violence, and police counter-violence, have killed more than 240 people since early 1992.

But Mr. Abu Al Ala's parents said on national television the night after the shooting episode that he had spent time in recent months in Dairut, a town in southern Egypt that has been under nighttime curfew for months because of extremist violence.

The worst single incident of the escalated violence occurred in May 1992 in fields outside Dairut, the slaughter by Islamic radicals of 13 Christian farmers and a Muslim who helped them.

Gunmen kill policeman

Gunmen shot dead a policeman Tuesday in the Nag Hammadi area of southern Egypt, and elsewhere more than 200 suspected fundamentalists were arrested, police said.

Mohammad Mahmud Abu Ala was killed on his way to work in Nag Hammadi, 580 kilometres south of Cairo, by suspected militants who managed to flee the scene.

His death brought to 78 the number of policemen killed since militants stepped up their attacks in March 1992 aimed at toppling the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak.

In Assiut province in southern Egypt security forces arrested 183 militants who were preparing a demonstration over the arrest of 39 other militants Monday in the Al Rahma Mosque in Assiut, police said.

The mosque is regarded as a stronghold of the outlawed fundamentalist group Al Gama Al Islamiyyah.

Three fundamentalists were injured during the arrests, police said.

Police entered the mosque firing teargas, after they had sealed off all the nearby streets.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Weapons seized from Kuwaiti civilians

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti authorities have seized thousands of weapons from civilians, including 31 surface-to-air missiles and anti-tank rockets, which were left behind by Iraqi troops in the Gulf war, the Kuwaiti Interior Minister said Tuesday. Sheikh Ahmad H'moud Al Sahah told parliament Tuesday the arms were seized by a special task force which began work in late 1992, after a deadline had expired for the voluntary surrender of weapons. Sheikh Ahmad said the 13,000 weapons, seized in 28 residential areas, also included six anti-aircraft guns, hand-grenades, shells, detonators and nearly 5,000 assault rifles. Acting Parliament Speaker Salah Al Fadhalah suspended the decree authorising the seizures by the task force until the next full session of parliament, set for late December, following a complaint from a deputy about the way the weapons were confiscated.

Khamenei for limited Iran-Egypt thaw

NICOSIA (R) — Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has authorised the Iranian government to seek a limited improvement in icy relations with Egypt, Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri was quoted as saying Tuesday. This could overturn a 1979 decree by Ayatollah Khamenei's predecessor, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, which cut diplomatic ties with Egypt in response to Cairo's peace deal with Israel. Mr. Nateq-Nouri, quoted by Tehran's Salam newspaper, said Iran's Supreme National Security Council headed by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani agreed in a discussion that relations with Egypt should be restored. "This was relayed to the exalted leader (Khamenei). He said it was not expedient. Recently when the matter was raised again, he issued a permission on a particular level," he said without elaborating. He was speaking in the southwestern city of Ahvaz. Mr. Nateq-Nouri's statement follows remarks by Mr. Rafsanjani who told Egypt's veteran journalist Mohammad Heikal in an interview last month that Iran and Egypt should have a dialogue.

U.S. battle group heads for Gulf

DUBAI (R) — A U.S. Navy battle group led by the Aircraft carrier Independence headed for the Gulf Tuesday to enforce U.S. air patrols over southern Iraq, a U.S. navy spokesman said. U.S. carrier-based aircraft have not patrolled the southern marsh regions of Iraq since early October because carriers were diverted from the Gulf to Somalia. The Independence and its battle group left Singapore on Monday and were expected in the Gulf soon, U.S. Central Command Navy spokesman Lieutenant Commander Bruce Cole told Reuters. It comprises of the nuclear submarine Helena, one cruiser, two frigates, an ammunition ship and an oiler. It replaces the aircraft carrier America's group, which left Somalia on Sunday for the Mediterranean Sea.

OAU mini-summit launches peace project

CAIRO (AP) — Leaders of 11 African nations urged Tuesday that two Libyan suspects in the bombing of a Pan Am jet be tried in a neutral country, supporting Libya's position in its conflict with the west.

Salem Ahmad Salem, secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), said leaders attending a so-called OAU mini-summit also agreed on a peacekeeping agency to solve disputes on the continent when requested by concerned parties.

Mr. Salem said the agency's first job will be to send 180 soldiers and 20 civilians to Burundi before New Year's Day to shield government leaders, and encourage dialogue among warring factions.

The mini-summit's final communiqué said the African leaders discussed at Tripoli the request Libya's conflict with the United States, Britain and France and urged a peaceful settlement for the dispute.

The three countries pushed through last month a U.N. Security Council resolution tightening sanctions to punish Libya for refusing to surrender for trial in the United States or Britain two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. The attack killed 270 people.

The African leaders "called for a fair trial for the suspects to be carried in a neutral country," the statement said.

Libya's offer to send the men to trial in any country other than the United States or Scotland has been rejected repeatedly by the Security Council.

Mr. Salem said the African leaders also discussed the turmoil in Somalia, which he said is not the responsibility of the OAU alone but of the international community.

He praised Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi's efforts to "hold an agreement among more than a dozen Somali factions and emphasised that attempts to solve the Somali conflict must be based on national reconciliation."

Mr. Zenawi has convened a peace conference of Somalia's warring clans in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

"Africa should speak in one voice in order to reach a solution," the summit statement said. That way, it said, the Somali factions would not misinterpret Mr. Zenawi's initiative.

The United Nations now has a U.S.-led peacekeeping and relief force in Somalia. The United States plans to withdraw all its forces by March 31. Most other participants are awaiting the outcome of the conference in Addis Ababa to determine whether to stay.

The Cairo summit also urged peaceful settlements for conflicts in Angola, Liberia and Niger and expressed support for the OAU efforts to bring them about.

According to Mr. Salem, the peacekeeping fund would be supported by five per cent of the OAU's budget and donations from African states and sources outside the continent.

He said, however, that any outside support, "should be unconditional."

Mr. Salem added that the new mechanism for solving inter-African conflicts will have no permanent standing army but will depend on the African countries' peacekeeping experience.

The countries attending the meeting are Egypt, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Ghana, Djibouti, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Angola and Niger.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 7711-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Taratara
18:00 News in French
19:15 Renaissance
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Arab World
21:00 The Arab World
21:30 The Arab World
22:00 The Arab World
22:30 The Arab World
23:00 The Arab World
23:30 The Arab World
24:00 The Arab World

PRAYER TIMES

04:56 Fajr
06:19 Sunrise (Dhuhi)
11:27 Dhuhi
14:13 Asr
16:36 Maghrib
17:58 Isha

WEATHER

Bulbun supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Light medium temperature in the north and south and in the lowlands, with some rain and fog in the mountains and in the north.

Forecast for the next 24 hours:

Temperature: 10-15°C
Precipitation: 10-15mm
Wind: 10-15 km/h

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department: 601111
Police: 601111
Fire: 601111
Ambulance: 601111
Hospital: 601111
Police: 601111
Fire: 601111
Ambulance: 601111
Hospital: 601111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre: 81381332
Khalidi Maternity: 64281816
Al-Khalidi Maternity: 64281816
Jabal Amman Maternity: 64281816
Nadhis: J. Amman: 64281816
Palestine Hospital: 64281816
Imbachi Hospital: 64281816
University Hospital: 64281816
Al-Muhsin Hospital: 64281816
The Islamic: 64281816
Al-Ahli: 64281816
Al-Muhsin: 64281816
Al-Bashir: 64281816
Army: 64281816
Queen Alia Hospital: 64281816
Amal Hospital: 64281816

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Time	From	Flight
04:30	Aden (RJ)	64281816
05:25	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)	64281816
07:15	Abu Dhabi (RJ)	64281816
07:15	New Delhi (RJ)	64281816
09:25	Amman (RJ)	64281816
09:30	Riyadh (RJ)	64281816
10:00	Beirut (RJ)	64281816
10:20	Colombo (RJ)	64281816
10:45	Cairo (RJ)	64281816
11:00	London (RJ)	64281816
11:30	Paris (RJ)	64281816
12:00	Amman (RJ)	64281816
12:30	Beirut (RJ)	64281816
12:45	London (RJ)	64281816
13:00	Paris (RJ)	64281816
13:30	Amman (RJ)	64281816
14:00	Beirut (RJ)	64281816
14:30	London (RJ)	64281816
15:00	Paris (RJ)	64281816
15:30	Amman (RJ)	64281816
16:00	Beirut (RJ)	64281816
16:30	London (RJ)	64281816
17:00	Paris (RJ)	64281816
17:30	Amman (RJ)	64281816
18:00	Beirut (RJ)	64281816
18:30	London (RJ)	64281816
19:00	Paris (RJ)	64281816
19:30	Amman (RJ)	64281816
20:00	Beirut (RJ)	64281816
20:30	London (RJ)	64281816
21:00	Paris (RJ)	64281816
21:30	Amman (RJ)	64281816
22:00	Beirut (RJ)	64281816
22:30	London (RJ)	64281816
23:00	Paris (RJ)	64281816
23:30	Amman (RJ)	64281816

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Time	From	Flight
05:45	Damascus, Paris (AF)	64281816
06:15	Beirut (SE)	64281816
14:30	Riyadh (SA)	64281816
17:45	Dubai (EM)	64281816
18:35	Dubai (EM)	64281816
20:55	Cairo (MS)	64281816
00:25	Amsterdam (KL)	64281816

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Time	From	Flight
13:00	Riyadh (SU)	64281816
16:35	Rome (AZ)	64281816
16:45	Dubai (EM)	64281816
20:05	Cairo (MS)	64281816
20:05	Amsterdam (KL)	64281816

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Arr. Damascus: 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus: 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman: 6:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/200
Banana	600
Banana (Okinawa)	600
Beans	600/450
Cabbage	120/70
Carrot	240/180
Cauliflower	180/120
Cucumber	180/120
Cucumbers (large)	200/150
Cucumbers (small)	260/200
Eggplant	900/600
Grape Fruit	170/100
Lemon	200/150
Marrow (large)	400/300
Marrow (small)	400/300
Onion (green)	600/450
Orange	380/200
Onion (dry)	400/300
Onion (red)	280/160
Pepper (hot)	260/200
Pepper (sweet)	260/200
Potato	270/200
Radish	400/300
Tomato	400/300
Spinach	220/160

هذه هي الصفحة الأولى

Voting centres close on time after Kingdom's landmark elections



A campaign banner remains hanging in Zarqa district (Photo by Rana Hussein)



His Majesty King Hussein talks to journalists at the press centre set up as a base for monitoring the elections at the Royal Cultural Centre (Photo by Aynsley Floyd)



Women cast their ballots at a voting centre in Amman's Third District (Photo by Aynsley Floyd)

Arab news agencies praise Jordan's achievements

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of Arab news agencies who arrived in Jordan to monitor the parliamentary elections said in statements Monday that they were impressed by the preparations and arrangements for voting throughout the Kingdom.

"We feel proud of Jordan's achievements, and we consider any Jordanian successes as accomplishments for the Iraqi people," said Deputy Director of the Iraqi News Agency Nouri Zeidan. "We hope that the democratic experiment of Jordan will be successful and serve the Jordanian people who are deeply admired and loved by the Iraqis," he added.

Mohammad Salem Al Marhoun, director of the Omani News Agency, said that the Jordanian people and leadership continually cope with the developments and the changes of the modern age and its requirements of real democracy. The parliamentary elections in Jordan represent the fruit of a long struggle on the part of the Jordanian people towards pluralism and democracy, he added.

Referring to the Shura Council in Oman, Mr. Marhoun said that it is an Islamic experiment reflecting the traditions of the Omani society. Debates and discussions during the Shura meetings are all published in the local media, he said. Members of the Shura Council have the right to contact any government official to discuss issues of concern to the Omani people, Mr. Marhoun added.

According to Nayef Mousa, secretary general of the Ministry of Information, 60 foreign

correspondents and 66 local reporters covered the general elections in Jordan Monday and benefited from the fully integrated information centre set up at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman, where they covered the election process in different areas.

Any statement by the Minister of Interior or other government officials was simultaneously translated into Arabic or English, while Jordan Radio and Television carried live coverage of the progress of the elections in the country's governorates, according to Mr. Mousa.

He said the local and foreign correspondents were provided with the necessary facilities to dispatch their reports on the elections.

The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) provided the press centre with 10 lines for international calls, four international fax channels and two teletypewriter lines.

Ahmad Rawashdeh, director of the TCC Commercial Section, said that the TCC also provided ample channels for Jordan Radio and Television.

He said the TCC set up a special operations room which was connected directly with operations rooms in the various governorates. Meanwhile, the Greater Amman Municipality Monday began removing campaign posters and banners along streets and public squares. A municipality official said that the process which started early Monday morning, entailed the removal of nearly 10,000 posters and banners in addition to photographs.

King voices satisfaction

(Continued from page 1)

beliefs, the King pointed out. In any event, he said, "we have always reaffirmed our national unity, considering ourselves as one family regardless of our origins."

"We take pride in our brotherly relations and our national duty would not be affected negatively by any external influences or circumstances."

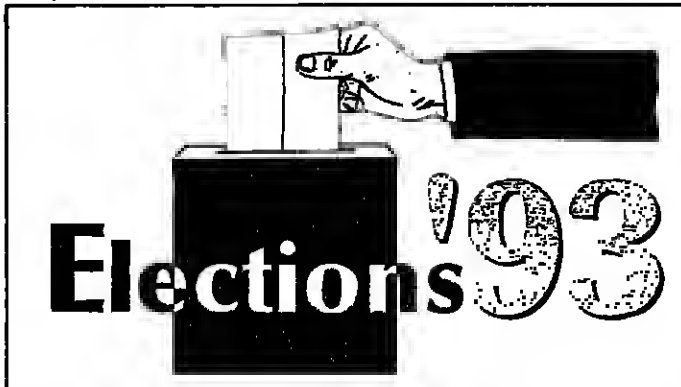
In comments later in an interview with Jordan Television, the King reaffirmed his commitment to democracy and called on the people to live up to their responsibilities at this "very critical circumstances."

"We pray to God to make a success of our efforts and enable us to leave for the future generations the task of continuing the democratic process, political pluralism and respect for human rights," the King said.

"I sincerely hope that this region will enjoy just and comprehensive peace acceptable to the future generations and that what we are doing now would serve as a gift to them," he said.

Asked whether Jordan would have reached a peace agreement with Israel before Jordanians went to the next polls in 1997, the King expressed optimism, but said many issues needed to be sorted out before arriving at comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The King declined to confirm or deny Israeli media reports that he met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres



last week, saying: "If the rules of the game are that one should not confirm or deny anything ... obviously a process has started a long time ago, and it is ongoing."

"We are for a comprehensive peace in this region, and as far as we are concerned, we are totally committed to the course of a just, durable peace."

In an implicit reference to the differences among the Palestinians over the Middle East peace process, the King noted that Jordan's support for the Palestinians remained firm despite "the fast-moving developments."

"We have called on the Palestinians and continue to urge them to preserve cohesion and solidarity," the King said. "We will continue to provide them with all possible backing and assistance."

The King expressed hope that Jordanian-Palestinian relations "will be built in a manner that would remove all suspicions, illusions and traces left behind as a result of

attempts by our enemies or as a result of misunderstandings."

"We are exerting all our efforts and offering all support for the people of the occupied territories to help them regain their legitimate rights," he said, adding future relations between the two banks of the River Jordan "will be decided upon by the people themselves."

"But, reaching a certain formula requires building from the base," he said.

Reaffirming his rejection of any single party seeking sovereignty over Jerusalem, the King expressed hope that the Holy City would become the meeting place for the faithful rather than a point of conflict.

"We do not accept nor will we ever accept any authority except that of God over the Holy City and the sacred shrines," the King said, voicing hope that a peace could be attained that "will be acceptable to the future generations who can protect it and enjoy its benefits."

Voting in all 20 constituencies runs smoothly — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Salameh Hammad Monday said that 534 candidates were in the race for Parliament on election day, Monday, and there were no last minute withdrawals.

Mr. Hammad said that a total of 2,906 ballot boxes were set up around the country when the election process started in the morning.

He said reports from the 20 constituencies in the Kingdom indicated that the election was

going smoothly and in an orderly fashion.

Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar said that certain people were discovered distributing campaign leaflets on election day, in violation of regulations. The security authorities in various regions, he said, will take appropriate measures against these people.

According to the Election Law, the election campaign stops one day prior to election day.

Asked whether the parliamentary election in Jordan was in any way connected with the ongoing Middle East peace process, Dr. Abu Nowar said that there was link between the two. Jordan has its own constitution which determines the dates of general elections regardless of regional developments or circumstances, he said.

He said the Jordanian people were adhering to and carrying out their national duty.



King congratulates Cambodia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of good wishes to Cambodia's Monarch Norodom Sihanouk on his country's national day. King Hussein wished the Cambodian king continued good health and happiness and further progress for the Cambodian people.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Fuman of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lurweibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by a group of artists at Orfali Art Gallery (telephone 643251/2).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mustafa Ali at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sa'di Al Ka'bi at Alla Art Gallery (9:30-13:30 and 1500-1800).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jaloo at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Abu Zraiq entitled "Views" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics and coloured glass by artists Khalid Mahafash and Basel Tarawneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- ★ Film in French entitled "Foreigners in Germany" at the Goethe-Institut at 8:00 p.m. (13 minutes).
- ★ Film in English entitled "Potsdam — Its Castles and Gardens" at the Goethe-Institut at 8:00 p.m. (60 minutes).
- ★ Bulgarian film entitled "Moments in a Box of Matches" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

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Promise of new House

TODAY should mark the beginning of the dismantling of candidates' banners and with them campaign promises and electioneering in general. This is a good time therefore for stock taking of the whole parliamentary elections, in terms not only of its impact on our lives here but also of their echo in the regional and international contexts. Judging by the widespread global interest in our democratic process that has been consolidated by yesterday's free and fair polls, our people can be proud of what they have achieved so far and what they expect to accomplish in the future. From the local perspective, the outcome of the elections would have an immense impact since it will define more clearly the political landscape around us. The international and regional perspective is clearly no less important. The states of the Middle East region can be expected to engage in an in-depth analysis of the full import of the Jordanian experiment in democratisation. The results of the Jordanian elections may for example give the clearest signal yet where Jordanians stand on the peace process in the area. The continuity in holding free and fair elections, on regular and constitutional basis, should also tell a living story about how deep and irreversible Jordan's democratisation process has become. This should make the issue of democracy in the area all the more pressing and relevant for its future development.

Likewise the international community has been watching ever more closely the Jordanian experience in a bid to gauge the effectiveness and viability of democracy in this part of the world. The organic link between democracy and human rights on one hand and democracy and self-determination on the other have been among the highlights of the June Vienna World Conference on Human Rights. Developing states have been experiencing formidable hardships in spawning roots for democracy in their midst. Some have even written off democracy as not a viable political system for those countries given their rate of development. The extent of the Jordanian success or lack of it in pluralistic democracy may therefore shed needed light for the rest of the concerned world.

Against this backdrop, no matter what the colour of the new Lower House is, the fact remains that this country has moved effectively in the direction of consolidating its democratic process. There was doubt for a short while that rapid advancement towards democracy would have to be halted before it rolled. The national decision to go ahead with the elections has thus to be vindicated not only by the composition of the new lower chamber, but also by the keen regional and international stakes in the process that made the elections possible in the first place.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

"AS WE sow, so we shall reap," is the title of an article by Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour daily Monday, the day of the elections. Today will be a very decisive day in the history of Jordan as the people go to the polls to choose their representatives in Parliament for the coming four years, said the writer. Jordan is in need of new blood in Parliament and of people who have not sat yet in Parliament before and who are determined to serve their nation with diligence and loyalty, said Qallab. It is a historic day for Jordanians who go to the polls with confidence in their ability to choose the best, added the writer. He said his advice to the voters is to rely on their conscience and their mind and elect those who want to win a seat in Parliament in order to better serve their country from a responsible position. He said those who fail to go to the polls today have only themselves to blame if they are not satisfied with the performance of the Lower House, noting that whatever we sow will be there for us to reap.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday commented on recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who keeps declaring to the world that the refugees would not be repatriated. Bader Abdul Haq has said that Mr. Rabin says the Palestinians are living an illusion if they believe that Israel would allow thousands of refugees to return to their homeland. How can we live in peace and how can the Arabs regain their rights in their homeland when they see Mr. Rabin taking this stand and how can peace be achieved when Israel continues to slaughter the Palestinians and continues to occupy their homeland? asked the writer. What Mr. Rabin is planning to do is to bring in thousands of Russian Jews to settle in the place of the Palestinians in their usurped lands and homes, continued the writer. He said that the well-known Arab and Palestinian Professor Walid Al Khalidi has pointed to the bitter facts about the situation in his recent lecture on the Middle East peace prospects. The professor was plain in his lecture and was frank in telling the Arabs that the recent agreement with Israel was based on lies and deception, added the writer. What Mr. Rabin wants to achieve out of his agreement with the PLO is a peace that would only serve Israel's interests, he said. Mr. Rabin wants to achieve peace through stifling of the voice of the resistance and the subjugation of the will of the Arab population, he added.

The View from Fourth Circle

An election about identity, not ideology

By Rami G. Khour

The Jordanian parliamentary elections held yesterday may be seen by future generations as an important milestone in modern Arab history. It is one of the rare examples in modern Arab history of Arab people expressing themselves freely and therefore hinting at what sort of Arab political culture we may expect to see evolving in this region in the years and decades to come. This is a historic moment not because Jordan's domestic politics can impact on events in this region, but rather because the political process under way in Jordan may prove to be a practical example of national political transformation in other parts of the Middle East and the broader Islamic and Third worlds.

The single most important aspect of Jordanian political transformation is the concept of "the politics of inclusion" — the fact that no shade of opinion is excluded and rather that every brand of political ideology and any social or religious sentiment can participate in the political game and compete for seats of power in Parliament and in the cabinet. This is the novelty that Jordan represents today: it is in sharp contrast to the politics of exclusion and violence that characterise larger and historically more important Middle Eastern societies such as those of Egypt, Algeria, Iran, Turkey, Syria, Sudan and Saudi Arabia to name only the most obvious.

Though this is being written before the election results are known, it is clear from the campaign that Jordanians have taken advantage of this opportunity to express their true political/cultural identity. This identity seems to be based on three main characteristics: tribalism, Islam and Arabism. These are, respectively, the most dominant social, religious and political/cultural forces that define Arab society; it is no surprise to see them rise to the surface after the people have been relieved of the worst constraints of modern Arab oligarchy and autocracy.

These elections do not necessarily reveal what we want or wish to become; they mainly tell us who we are and what we believe in. They are an expression of personal and communal identity, rather than of political ideology or national goals. This is no surprise either, given that in the last half a century the Arab people have been denied the opportunity to express themselves in a free atmosphere of political, religious and cultural pluralism.

Many people — and most foreign observers — make the mistake of focusing on the strength of the different political forces in the country, especially the Islamists who caught the West asleep in Iran a decade and a half ago. The more important development to watch in the future is the synthesis among the three defining forces of tribalism, Arabism and Islam. How these three mesh together into a single political culture will determine the nature of our political structures and processes; these in turn will determine whether we evolve into stable, productive, responsive societies or continue drifting into social disequilibrium, economic disparity and political and religious tension.

We always knew that tribalism, Arabism and Islam were our

major defining forces, so their assertion is no big surprise. In this campaign, though, we have also seen the emergence of an important new force in the country: the young, fragile, but real desire for more modern, liberal and egalitarian structures of civil society that are based on — but also transcend — our tribal/Arab/Islamic identity. This was perhaps most evident in the phenomenon of candidate Toujan Feisal in the Third District in Amman, but it can also be seen in other candidates whose campaigns mentioned issues such as the importance of institutional state structures, human rights, legal protections and other such topics.

The message we seem to be hearing from the people of Jordan is that our tribal/Arab/Islamic identity gives us comfort and strength, but it cannot be a blueprint for future progress and national development. The emphasis in this campaign on domestic, practical issues — as opposed to the regional and emotional issues that dominated the 1989 campaign — is a sign of some political maturity among the people and also a sign of increasing pressures at the family level that people are expressing in the elections.

In the last decade only the Islamists tapped into this strain of social, economic and emotional grievances by individuals, families and entire communities; therefore, they dominated elections held in the period 1988-1992. Today, the electoral playing field is rather different and far more fair and intellectually richer. People discontented with the status quo now have options other than the previous limited choices of the Islamists, rebellion, emigration or emigration.

Yet, the 20 or so new political parties have been unable to tap into this reality, because the parties — like almost all the official political and state structures that we imported from Europe in the second quarter of this century — are culturally alien to our community. It is noteworthy that lowest on the national credibility scale in Jordan today are the structures of state, the political parties and the official and private media that reflect them both, while highest on the credibility scale are the more traditional structures of this society, namely tribalism, Arabism, Islam and King Hussein's embodiment of monarchy as a traditional protective, patriarchal form of governance.

It is no accident, also, that most parties and independent candidates should have come up with such shallow political programmes, preferring instead to emphasise emotional slogans. This, too, is a reflection of cultural traits in a society whose ancient social traditions and modern oligarchic political forces have both promoted personal allegiance and emotional dependency as the keys to survival, power and personal progress.

It would have been unnatural for our politicians suddenly to offer the people intelligent, rational, responsive political programmes that address the many practical issues that define people's lives — such as water, schooling, affordable food, jobs, housing and legal rights. It was more natural for aspiring parliamentarians to repeat the ways and the words of the past

— to appeal to the heart rather than the head, to plead the narrow dictates of flesh and blood ties instead of the expansive promise of an egalitarian society that respects tribal law and while also assuring people rights through a system of law and civil structures.

The campaign showed that traditions are still very strong in Jordan, but also that serious change is under way. The large and mixed crowds that the women candidates attracted are powerful signs of a new mentality that has started to infiltrate into our old ways. The fact that some large extended families could not agree on a single candidate and fielded three or four in some cases, is also a sign of significant change.

The most serious flaw in the election process is the weakness that allowed perhaps tens of thousands of voters to obtain two or more voting cards, while some voters did not get their one card. Clearly, and despite the best efforts of our civil servants, the logistics of voting are flawed and are subject to manipulation by those who would abuse the weaknesses of a traditional, Third World culture trying to master the mechanisms of a modern system of participatory democracy.

It would be worth the extra effort to make a thorough, independent investigation after the election to find out how it was possible for people to get more than one voting card and to try to find out how many people voted more than once — if any. Such an investigation cannot be conducted by government officials alone; it needs independent investigators who are empowered to have access to all Ministry of Interior documents and records, to make sure that the few flaws that do exist are remedied before the next election. To hide this issue under the table and make believe it does not matter would be a grievous blow to the credibility of our process of political liberalisation. Let us hope that it does not distort the will of the people this time around, and that the Ministry of Interior officials in charge of the election worked out a system, to negate double or triple voting where it may have occurred.

Another deficiency was the inability of candidates to make use of the official media — especially radio and television — to promote national debate and reach the largest possible number of voters. The state is neutral as a political actor in the domestic pluralistic system, according to the National Charter, but this does not mean that it rolls over and plays dead, and denies the people use of its powerful electronic mass media for the purpose of promoting pluralism. This has to be corrected in future elections. If there are so many candidates, then the state should summon many more corners of the human brain to figure out how to give them equitable access to the state-owned media.

Despite these flaws, this election has been an important milestone on a very long road of modern Arab political transformation and development. I think Jordanians can be proud of the experience and all Arabs can learn from it as they continue their millennial quest for national dignity on the basis of an individual's free expression of identity and aspirations.

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A well defined Jordanian-Palestinian relationship to end all fears and suspicions

By Lamis K. Andoni

The signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord on Sept. 13 has pushed to the surface mutual suspicions and fears among Jordanians (East Bankers) and Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

The potential creation of a Palestinian entity has placed Jordanians of all origins at a crossroad: for the first time since 1950, when the West Bank was united with the Kingdom, Jordanians literally overnight became subjects of two separate entities, with assumed different interests and allegiances.

Consequently, the haunting question of who is a Jordanian and who is a Palestinian had suddenly become crucial and was portrayed as if it were the major factor to determine Jordan's future and stability.

Aware of the seeds of friction, His Majesty King Hussein, in a nationwide address last month, explained that one of the reasons he decided to go along with holding elections on schedule was to prevent a Jordanian-Palestinian political and social polarisation.

"The strength of unity among the members of our one family, regardless of origin or descent, their equality in rights and obligations in the most critically situated part of the great Arab homeland — all these are real foundations too strong to be tampered with," he said.

In a clear message to all Jordanians, of all origins, the King indicated he will not tolerate any questioning of the allegiance of the Jordanians of Palestinian origin nor any attempt to sow friction among the one family.

"Whoever does so (tampers with national unity) in any form or shape is deemed not to be one of us. He shall be my foe and yours until the day of judgment," the King said firmly in a warning that was interpreted to be mainly directed at advocates of stripping Palestinians of their civil and political rights.

Even though the King has set the tone aimed at drawing the line and how far peace can be achieved, the debate — that has fallen short so far of a candid and thorough dialogue — has not abated.

The most alarming aspect of the ongoing debate is that the two identities appear to be pitted against each other as if the realisation of one is mutually exclusive of the other.

Such an understanding of the relationship is not only erroneous, it could also seriously jeopardise social cohesion and national unity as well as undermine Jordanian and Palestinian aspirations to maintain Jordan's sovereignty and Palestinian national rights in Palestine. For

the practical implications of the underlying assumptions that Jordanian national and Palestinian national expressions contradict each other would only serve the goal of transforming the Palestinian-Israeli conflict into a battle for survival between Palestinians and Jordanians.

Furthermore, portraying the Palestinian identity as the antithesis of the Jordanian identity defies the very essence of the Palestinian national movement as it emerged in its modern form with the aim of achieving Palestinian national rights. After all, the main goal of the Palestinian national movement, as embodied in the PLO and even in previous movements, was to assert an independent Palestinian identity and national rights in Palestine — and out in Jordan.

In that context, the national dimension of the Palestinian Arab movement did not evolve to counter the Jordanian identity but to counter Israeli claims that Palestinians, as a nation, did not exist and the refugees within the Jordanian state.

The friction that has existed since the late 1940s between the Palestinian national movement and Jordanian governments had in fact nothing to do with the conflict between the two identities.

At the root of the conflict was Palestinian determination, rightly or wrongly, to be identified separately from any other government, partly not to give Israel a pretext to ignore national Palestinian rights and partly because Palestinians viewed most Arab governments as independent — for objective or subjective reasons — from western influence.

In fact, throughout the fifties and the sixties — political divisions over what were viewed as pro-western Jordanian policies were widespread. Thus, the opposition movement — that called itself the Jordanian national movement — in those days comprised Jordanians and Palestinians alike, just as governments which pursued those policies included Jordanians and Palestinians.

In fact, the Palestinian movement was seen as well separated from the Jordanian movement that opposed Jordan's joining pro-western pacts and struggled for completing Jordan's independence from the British Mandate.

The emergence of a separate Palestinian movement was mainly initiated by Palestinians in other countries, but was later joined by Jordan's Palestinians as an expression of general disillusionment with Arab governments' and parties' abilities, especially with pan-Arab

nationalist parties, to pursue the goal of liberating Palestine.

In Jordan, the association of the country's policies with the West in the fifties and sixties was viewed by many Palestinians as an obstacle to Palestinian self-determination since the West, initially Britain and later the U.S., did not come to terms with Palestinian rights and favoured Jordanian representation.

Jordan, which believed its policies were deeply rooted in pan-Arabism as embodied in the 1916 Great Arab Revolt by the King's great grandfather, Sherif Hussein Ben Ali, saw its responsibility towards the West Bank and Palestine in general to be consistent with its pan-Arab identity and the Hashemite mission.

The 1964 creation of the PLO and, more significantly, Arab and international recognition of the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, boosted Palestinian demands but deepened friction within the Jordanian society.

But the turning point was the 1970 showdown between the Jordanian army and the PLO — when Jordan was threatened by the PLO's attempts to create a sanctuary for the Palestinian revolution in the Kingdom. In that year, and after division, the Jordanian-Palestinian basis became clearer. Although Jordanians and Palestinians remained on both sides of the system-versus-the-opposition equation, a new situation emerged where Jordanians of Palestinian origin, at least the majority, were torn between the PLO representation of their national rights and their Jordanian belonging and to a large extent felt they were part of Jordan and became integrated in the society.

The situation presented an equally difficult dilemma to the Jordanian state and consecutive governments that had to deal with the fact that a considerable percentage of the population was committed to another political entity, the PLO.

What further complicated the situation was the fact that until Jordan disengaged itself from the West Bank, many Palestinians were suspicious that Jordan was ready to take over the PLO's role.

Actually, these suspicions continued and were reinforced when the U.S. and Israel rejected a direct role for the PLO in the peace process when it was first launched two years ago.

Consequently, the Oslo Accord, particularly the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, should in theory have removed a major source of friction, setting the stage for heal-

thier Jordanian-Palestinian relations. In practice, however, the accord may have contributed to the clear distinction between Jordan and Palestine — refuting claims by Israeli extremists that Jordan is Palestine — but on the domestic level it brought to the surface many contradictions. The question now is: Why did that have to happen?

To start with, it is doubtful that the absence of a joint, clearly defined Jordanian-Palestinian vision for future relations has been a major factor that has contributed to the current ambiguity.

Second, the fact that the PLO did not consult with Jordan on the fundamental outlines of the accord — which included provisions that could directly or indirectly affect Jordan — has offended many Jordanians.

But it is not a secret that one of the aims of the PLO, in seeking direct dialogue with Israel, was to assert its role and to preempt the U.S. and Israel from using the deadlock at the peace process to rule out the participation of the organisation and seek instead Jordan's representation of the Palestinians. But this does not mean that Jordan would have accepted such a role for itself anyway. Jordan's policies over the past 20 years have in fact pointed to exactly the opposite direction.

Another factor is the nature of the accord itself, which has the potential of pitting the Palestinians, together with the Israelis as some sort of partners, against the Arab World, including Jordan. A point is made in the accord to this effect, but it is resented by the PLO which has reiterated that it will use the agreement to disengage the Palestinian entity from Israel.

An additional serious problem is that the accord, for whatever reasons that could well have been out of the PLO control, has left the future of Palestinians in the diaspora, including in Jordan, suspended.

The last factor created confusion in Jordan, prompting officials to issue contradictory statements about Palestinians' political rights in Jordan. For while one day there would be an official statement suggesting that Palestinians would have to choose now between the two entities, the next day there would be statements indicating that the status of the Palestinians would not change.

The King's decision to hold the elections on schedule without affecting the Palestinians' rights to nominate themselves or vote, had considerably eased the tension but did not end it.

The initial contradictory statements quickly reinforced the

trend by some ultra "nationalist" Jordanians who call for stripping Palestinians of their political rights while, at the same time, unreservedly the Palestinians who felt insecure about their status in the country.

All of a sudden Palestinians felt that they have to prove their loyalty. Palestinian national aspirations seemed to be contradicting Jordanian interests, at least as expressed by those who resent Palestinian influence in Jordan — an influence which has been the result of both Jordan's granting Palestinians its citizenship (acting from a broad pan-Arab nationalist perspective) and of Palestinian active participation in building the country.

The accord also triggered a complicated process of self-awareness on both sides, which manifested itself in some negative ways, hidden and public. These manifestations were reflected in practices by some government departments — which contradicted the official policies as expressed by the King himself — that implied discrimination against the Palestinians.

The message the Palestinians were getting was that now that a Palestinian entity was in the making they should "leave Jordan for the Jordanians."

These practices, that again are inconsistent with the official line, reinforced the feeling among many Palestinians that they are being treated "as second class citizens."

These perceptions, rightly or wrongly, deepened a feeling many Palestinians had had and which were reinforced by the accord, that they are "separate if not outsiders."

This feeling has been reflected in two practical, sometimes contradictory attitudes. First, there has been a tendency among Jordanians of Palestinian origin to move towards asserting their political rights in Jordan, including jobs in the government and all its departments.

Second, there was a force for alienation and apathy among some Jordanians of Palestinian origin who were either intimidated by prospects of losing their rights in Jordan or already felt that their place was somewhere else, in the future Palestinian entity, or both.

It is doubtful that the PLO has also played a negative role by its continuous failure to take into consideration the sensitive situation in Jordan and the implications of its decisions on Jordan. A point conceded by many PLO officials, but so far nothing much has been done in terms of an in-depth study of Jordanian-Palestinian relations by the leadership in Tunis.

But the PLO's negligence and mistakes, that are admitted and criticised by Jordanians of Palestinian origin, should not be used to justify discriminatory practices or attitudes against Palestinians, as many argue.

To some Jordanians, this Palestinian attitude translates into "the Palestinians want to have it both ways — to retain their rights and privileges to Jordan without jeopardising their national rights in Palestine."

It is not "worthy" that the strongest advocates of making Palestinians choose between their political rights in Jordan and their Palestinian national rights could be counted among those who showed support for or in fact strongly supported the Oslo accord.

It seems, as many analysts conclude, that at the heart of the problem is that the Oslo-Washington accords, by not referring clearly to the fate of the refugees, including those from 1967, could lead to the permanent settlement of Palestinian refugees in Jordan. Such analysis of the accords could only reinforce fears on both sides — those who are worried about the identity of Jordan and Palestinians who feel uncertain about their future.

Moreover, the mutual Israeli-PLO recognition has not ended Palestinian fears, among some at least, that the PLO could be used to break out of the peace process if it does not prove its "efficiency" to build a state and at the same time discipline the Palestinians. To some, the conditions entailed in the Oslo accord could jeopardise the PLO's credibility and legitimacy — giving Israel the chance to once again flout Palestinian representation.

In addition, the conditions attached to the future Palestinian entity, which keep in doubt its future independence and evolution into a state, also provoke fears and suspicions among both sides.

For although there is a realisation by both sides that their future is linked, there are fears among some Jordanians that a Palestinian entity would swallow up Jordan, since there would be as many Palestinians here as in the separate entity. The Palestinians counter that by asserting that what they actually want is a future link based on equality.

In 1991, in a television interview with Rami Khouri, King Hussein said that there was no return to the pre-1967 relationship between the West Bank and Jordan, pointing at that any future relationship should take into consideration the needs and aspirations of both the Jordanians and the Palestinians on equal footing.

But so far, the Jordanian and PLO leaderships have not been able to agree on an exact relationship, apparently in order to keep their options open, thus allowing ambiguities and sensitivities to translate into mutual suspicions.

As the debate continues, there is an increasing belief that a definition for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship has to be reached in order to bury forever those fears and suspicions.

Lamis Andoni is a member of the Jordan Times editorial staff

Traditional tribal belt remains tight for politicians

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ABU ALANDA — In 1989, sixty-year-old Zuhaira Hasbeh voted for the first time in her life after her husband pressed her to drop her domestic chores and nine children for an hour to go to the polling centre. Amjad Hasbeh, a truck driver, died since, but his wife did not need any pressure this time around since it was her Monarch who issued the summons.

If anything, Mrs. Hasbeh, whose literacy is limited to scribbling her name, also urged all her neighbours to exercise their voting rights and managed to bring two of them with her to a girls' school in this small town in the tribal belt south of Amman to cast their ballots.

Tucking away her voting card and family registration book somewhere in the vastness of her flowing thobe after voting on Monday, Mrs. Hasbeh expressed satisfaction that she had done her part of the "national respon-

sibility that His Majesty the King talked about two days ago."

"There was no way I would have stayed home after the King said those who did not vote would be shirking their responsibility," said Mrs. Hasbeh, referring to an address the Monarch made Saturday when he emphatically called on all voters to exercise their voting right and opt for moderation and dedication in the next Parliament.

"I have done my duty," she said.

Luckily for Mrs. Hasbeh, one of her cousins had not only put down her name in the voting register but also collected her card.

Mrs. Hasbeh scowled with her tattooed chin when asked who her choice of candidate was. "It is my privilege and right to vote for whomever I want as long as I believe he will serve our interests," she said.

"It was a difficult choice," she admitted, however. "Every one of them talks too much and promises too much

but does very little. I think I opted for the best among them."

Women voters jostling each other at the polling centres in their hurry to get to their children and cook for the family appeared to outnumber men who drifted in ones and twos in the eight or nine segregated polling towns in this industrial town.

But that was no reflection of apathy, residents said.

Marwan Zyoud, a 25-year-old student, said most men were at work at one or another of the private sector establishments in the area and were expected to turn out to vote in the afternoon. Monday was a public holiday, but many private sector firms opted to work and close early to allow their workers who wanted to vote to do so.

Poster-plastered minibuses of candidates disgorged hundreds of women at the polling centres to be greeted by teenage campaigners handing out fliers and leaflets in last-minute hustings.

Hussein, an 11-year-old wearing a sash emblazoned

with an appeal from a candidate in the name of "a better future for all of us," said his two brothers were working for a rival candidate.

"They are better paid," he said. "Here I am asked by my father to work for a candidate who happens to be a cousin."

Such family ties are typical of the electorate in Amman's Fourth District where political parties stood little chance to gain ground against candidates from prominent clans in the area.

"We leave politics to the people of Jabal Amman who have the time and energy to spare," said Atwa Azzem Hadid, who said he was supporting the incumbent from the Hadid clan, one of the six or seven large families in the area.

"Politics works for people who are leading a contented, happy life," he said. "But for us here it is a matter of securing the minimum level of services."

His stand may be opinionated, but Mahmoud Jaber, a civil servant, said many voters in the area were looking

for candidates with a combination of tribal links and ability to deliver on promises of better services.

"There are major loopholes in the infrastructure of this area, and we need to address them," said Mr. Jaber.

Outside the secondary school where Mrs. Hasbeh voted, elderly women wearing campaign badges shooed away the boys who dared offer fliers to their supporters.

"I have told you a hundred times to stay away," shouted a middle-aged woman campaigning for a tribal candidate when a teenager carrying the fliers of a rival ran towards a group of women getting down from a minibus, apparently supporters of her candidate.

"I am going to complain to your mother," she told him, as the boy kept on grinning but made no move to back away. The boy, who gave his name as Amer, later explained that he and the woman were neighbours, and it was only a coincidence that



Women, who make up nearly 55 per cent of Jordan's population, were granted the right to vote and run in elections in 1974 (Photo by Rana Hussein)

they happened to be on the opposite sides of the election fence.

"That is her son who goes to the same school as me," said Amer, pointing to a

sandwich seller who was doing brisk business. Small world indeed. Is it possible that one of the policemen inside the centre is

his cousin or something? Which one? he wanted to know. "There is one I know who is married to the sister of a friend of mine."



Scenes from Monday's elections in Jordan for the Kingdom's 12th Parliament (photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

House

(Continued from page 1)

Ma'an

Awadh Khleifat 3,988 votes
Abdul Karim Kabariti 3,418 votes
Tawfiz Kreishat 3,190 votes
Taha Hababeh 3,127 votes
Bader Riati (IAF) 2,436

Balqa

Ali Shatti
Mohammad Oweida
Mustapha Shneikat
Ibrahim Hamdan
Hashem Dabbas
Abdullah Ensour
Samir Kassar
Fawzi Tuameh

Zarqa

Bassam Emoush (IAF) 9,316
Mohammad Al Haj (IAF) 8,970 votes
Theib Anis (IAF) 7,090 votes
Fayad Jarrar 4,512 votes
Abdul Baqi Jammu (Circassian) 1,235
Bassam Haddadin (Christian) 1,841

Mafrq

Abdul Karim Dughmi 3,672 votes
Abdullah Akhou Rashideh 3,186 votes
Mohammad Abu Oleim 2,644 votes

Tafleh

Mohammad Daoudieh 2,518 votes
Abdullah Akaileh (IAF) 2,308 votes
Raleb Al Saud 1,931 votes

Northern Bedouins

Saad Hayel Al Snour
Nawaf Al Qadi

Central Bedouins

Jamal Al Khreisha 3,263 votes
Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben 2,200 votes

South Bedouins

Salem Al Zawaideh 3,717 votes
Mohammad Oudeh Najad 2,453 votes

Irbid

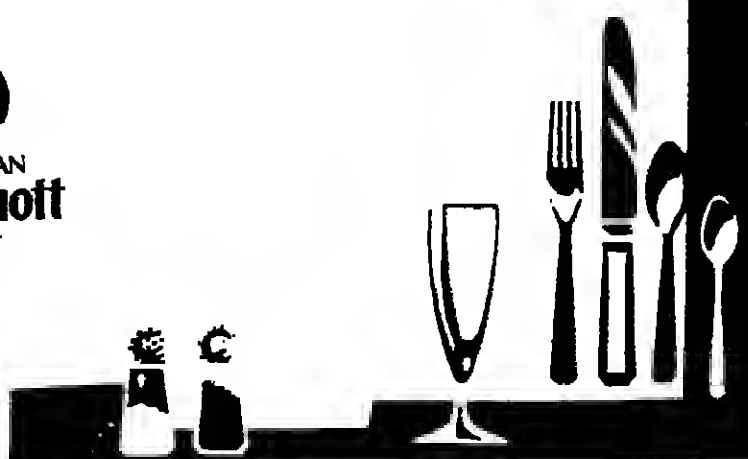
Abmad Kofahi
Abdul Rahim Akour
Aref Batayneh
Abdul Razak Theishat
Saleh Irshaidat
Saleh Shuwaita
Abdul Mujeeb Azzam
Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh
Nader Abu Shaar

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OECD sees sharp rise in world borrowing

PARIS (AFP) — Borrowing on world capital markets, which hit an all-time high of \$610 billion last year, could smash all previous records in 1993 barring an unlikely reversal of a sharp uptrend in the first eight months, the OECD indicated Sunday.

By the end of August, total borrowing so far this year stood at \$526 billion, a sharp 36 per cent increase from \$388

billion in January-August 1992, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its three-yearly survey of financial market trends.

The very rapid expansion so far this year "seems unlikely to taper off in the months ahead" with the level of business in securities markets remaining high and syndicated lending and medium-term borrowing

facilities also showing a marked upward trend, the report said.

Industrial nations in the OECD boosted their borrowing to \$458 billion, a year-on-year rise of about \$120 billion, compared with \$336 billion for 1992 as a whole.

The survey said this largely reflected increased recourse to market financing by OECD government entities.

It noted that several "large-scale" bond offerings for OECD sovereign and public sector borrowers were expected before year-end.

However, borrowing by developing countries also contributed to the buoyancy of the markets, rising by almost one-third to \$43 billion during the first eight months.

This was barely short of the total of \$47 billion they raised

annually both in 1991 and 1992, and included a record \$13 billion worth of bonds issued by Latin American borrowers.

Central and eastern European countries also made a come-back on the capital markets, raising \$4.0 billion, by far the largest amount since the late 1980s. But the survey noted that Hungary and the Czech Republic accounted for almost all of the new borrowing.

OECD analysts stressed a "vigorous" expansion of business in practically all market compartments in the January-to-August period, led by a 43 per cent year-on-year increase in bond offerings which hit an all-time high of \$321 billion.

Taking into account an unusually large volume of redemptions, totalling about \$200 billion, the net volume raised was about \$118 billion, up \$45 billion year-on-year.

The survey noted that placements of international equities continued at a record pace, backed by the buoyancy in major stock markets, with the volume of new share issues up by six per cent to \$20.5 billion.

It also reported a pickup in syndicated commercial bank lending which rose by one-third to \$92 billion from \$72 billion in the first eight months of 1992.

Lending terms have eased, with spreads for OECD borrowers falling to their lowest levels since the end of 1990.

OECD analysts said that besides the expected continued high level of Western financing needs, non-OECD borrowers were likely to remain active in the bond markets, with the Latin Americans leading the field helped by the recent upgrading of credit ratings in the region.

Banks and other financial institutions were also likely to continue looking to the securities markets for funds qualifying as capital under the new prudential regulations.

Corporate borrowers seeking to refinance maturing debt could also remain a major source of demand.

The survey singled out three factors which, in the view of OECD analysts, could "positively" influence the supply of capital in the period ahead.

1. — Large institutional investors operating on a global basis are supporting a broad trend towards asset diversification, by floating very large high-quality issues that have helped strengthen the liquidity of the Euro-bond market.

2. — Last year's foreign exchange turmoil does not appear to have had any lasting impact on securities trading.

3. — Investors have seen a widening of the outlets for investible funds and have been offered greater scope for active asset management thanks to new instruments such as "global bonds" and the emergence of new markets such as the Asian "dragon bond" market.

Indian exchange foreign reserves hit record high

BOMBAY (R) — India's foreign exchange reserves have reached a record high in a dramatic turnaround from an acute balance of payments crisis two years ago when the country had to mortgage gold. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the central bank, has reported that total gold and foreign currency reserves in October reached \$11.5 billion, amounting to a comfortable seven times its monthly imports.

The reserves have more than doubled since June 1991 when the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao took over amid a severe balance of payments crisis. Total reserves at that time were \$4.7 billion.

The reserves have risen from \$9.3 billion in October last year, as the RBI bought more than \$2 billion to help stabilise the currency after the full float of the rupee in March.

Foreign exchange dealers say the RBI has been buying dollars to prevent the rupee from strengthening, which would undermine the country's export drive.

On the back of a nine per cent devaluation of the rupee at the time of the full float, India's exports are booming.

Last month India said its trade deficit declined sharply in the first five months of the 1993/94 financial year beginning April 1 to about \$264.6 million. This compared with just over \$2.3 billion in the same period the previous year. Exports rose more than 24 per cent in dollar terms.

The dramatic improvement has eased pressure on India to seek a new loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of up to \$9.0 billion to cushion the balance of payments.

Bankers say it may no longer be necessary although the discipline of an IMF-supervised programme could be useful for the government.

The RBI has warned Delhi about the risks to its reform programme from a recent sharp increase in the government's fiscal deficit.

India's Congress party, facing crucial elections in five states and Delhi this month, says the better economic outlook is the result of its bold economic liberalisation programme designed to integrate the country into the global trading system.

"In this reform programme, we have to take full advantage of whatever the world has to offer. Isolation is injurious to the health of the nation's economy," Rao's Congress Party said in its manifesto for the November polls.

The Indian government has projected a five per cent growth in gross domestic product for the 1993/94 financial year ending March 31.

BIS seen cooling on European monetary union

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is seen cooling towards European monetary union once its general manager leaves at the end of this year, senior European monetary sources said Monday.

The world's oldest international financial organisation, set up in 1930 to regulate German war reparations, came down clearly in favour of a single European currency over the last few years under the management of Alexandre Lamfalussy.

"Under Lamfalussy the BIS played a more prescriptive role in international financial issues and clearly argued in favour of a fixed rate exchange rate system and the creation of a single currency," a senior monetary source said.

"But with the collapse of the narrow band currency grid in the ERM this year the BIS commitment to European monetary union now appears a little unfortunate and I am sure it will shift towards a less pro-Europe and more neutral stance," he pointed out.

Belgian Lamfalussy, who has headed the BIS since 1985, led the central bankers' bank away from neo-interventionist, free market international monetary thinking towards an approach advocating regulated and fixed exchange rate systems.

Monetary sources said the

diminutive, balding Belgian's departure from the BIS to take on the presidency of the European Monetary Institute (EMI), the fledgling European Community (EC) central bank, would accelerate the Basle-based bank's shift away from the Lamfalussy line.

Mr. Lamfalussy is expected to be replaced by Bank of England executive director Andrew Crockett.

"He is rather an unknown quantity," a source close to the BIS said. "He is more of a technician, more of a manager than Lamfalussy who was above all an excellent and international respected economist," he added.

Mr. Crockett, 50, worked at the International Monetary Fund for 17 years until 1989 before rejoining the Bank of England where he started his career in 1966.

The sources said the EMI, to be based in Frankfurt and to replace the EC central bank governors' committee which is based in the BIS, headquarters in Basle, would only slightly alter the nature of one of the BIS' most important functions — the provision of an informal talking shop for central bankers.

"You will probably now have a special train full of central bankers travelling from Basle to Frankfurt the second Monday of every month," a source close to the BIS said.

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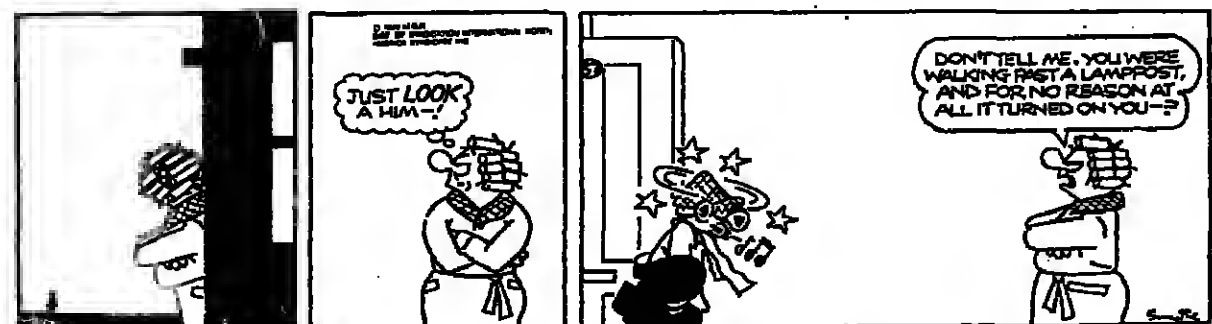
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AUTO PARTS & ACCESSORIES, GARMENTS ACCESSORIES
ABS BUTTON
OPP STATIONARY TAPE
OPP PACKAGING TAPE
PVC INSULATING TAPE
PVC PROTECTION TAPE
PVC INDUSTRIAL TAPE
SLITTER CUTTER MACHINE
FLUORESCENT TUBE
FLUORESCENT FITTING
COSMETICS, PERFUME
HOUSEWARES
BUILDING MATERIAL, CURTAIN HARDWARE
ABS LUGGAGE SET
ABS ATTACHE CASE
ABS BEAUTY CASE
STATIONERY & OFFICE SUPPLY
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GARMENT ACCESSORIES
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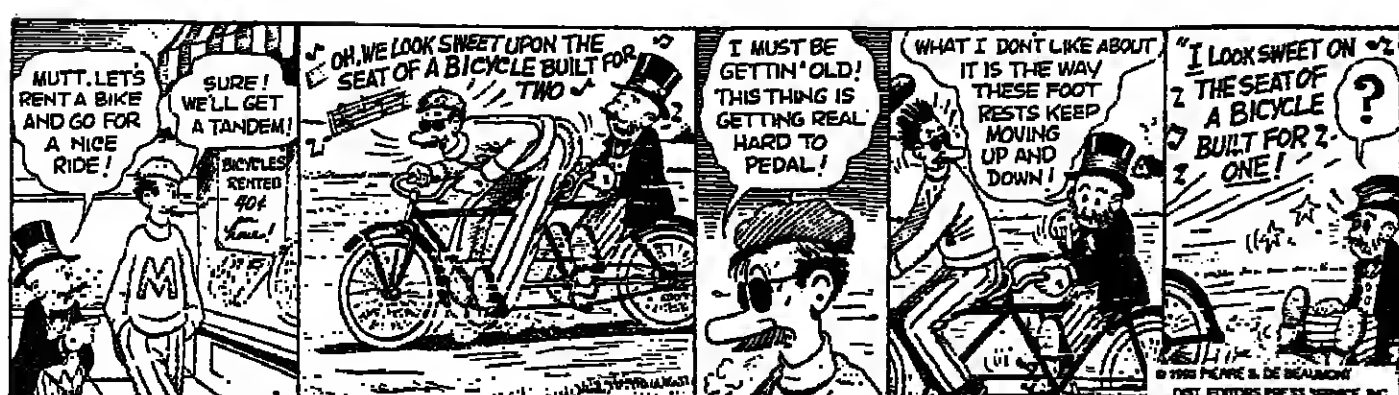
Peanuts



Andy Capp



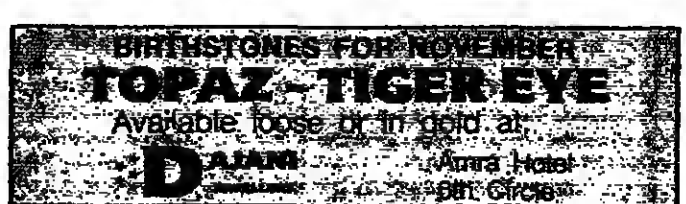
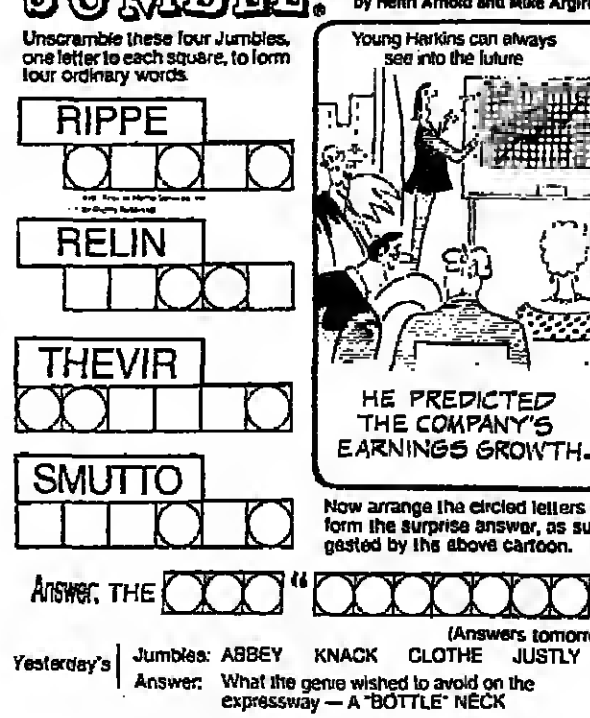
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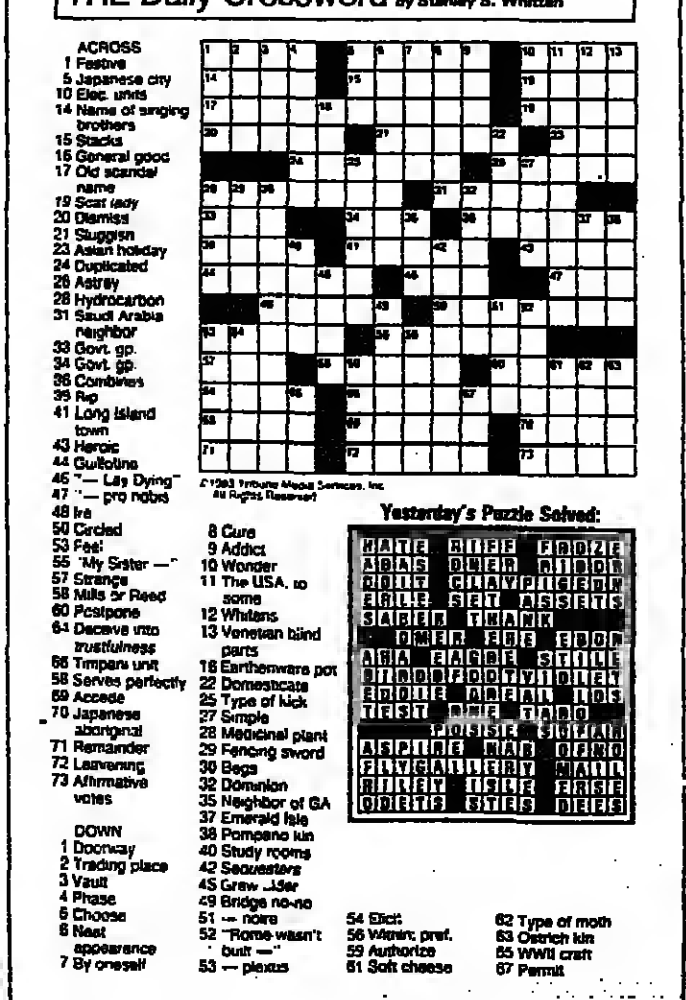
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



THE Daily Crossword by Stanley S. Whitman



South Korea aims to ease path for foreign investors

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Monday pledged to loosen the bureaucratic stranglehold on foreign investment and unveiled a blueprint for a new era of economic stability and growth fuelled by overseas capital.

The measures, announced after a workshop hosted by President Kim Young-Sam, will relax restrictions on foreign land ownership, foreign exchange transactions and approvals necessary to do business in South Korea.

Mr. Kim, chairing the meeting of business leaders, officials and economic ministers, said the nation must look abroad if it wanted to continue its push to first world prosperity.

"We now have to turn our eyes outward, towards the world, and carry out the reform necessary for us to survive while competing against the world," Mr. Kim told the meeting at the presidential Blue House.

Finance Minister Hong Jae-Hong told the meeting foreigners investing in the manufacturing sector would, from next March, be allowed to buy land without prior finance ministry approval.

But land purchases for residential purposes would be limited to 200 pyong (660 square metres), Mr. Hong said.

He said foreigners investing in the high-tech sector would be allowed to raise all of their

capital investment overseas and tax rates for non-listed companies in which foreigners have a stake would be cut.

Restrictions on purchases of Japanese machinery, which are permitted only when foreign-invested companies make fresh investment or raise capital, will be relaxed.

In a blow against the bureaucrats, Mr. Hong said foreigners would get approval on investment applications within 10 days compared with a current delay of 30 days.

Imports of technology, other than those related to the defence and ultra high-tech sectors, would no longer need to be reported to the government, he added.

In a bid to boost export growth, ministers said they wanted to help South Korean businesses invest overseas.

Mr. Hong said his ministry would free 17 out of the 30 business sectors where South Korean companies are restricted from overseas investment.

A finance ministry official said the sectors involved included textile manufacturing, retailing and wholesaling and real estate operations.

He said the ministry planned to expand foreign exchange loans by up to 10 per cent and ease restrictions on the issuance of overseas securities.

Trade Minister Kim Chul-Su said he would allow traders to ship commodities worth up to

\$20,000 without registration with the government, up from the current \$10,000 limit.

The textile industry, a former giant now declining in the face of low-cost competition from abroad, would be subject to a high-tech transformation and marketing activities overseas would be stepped up.

South Korea's already-flourishing steel industry would diversify into special steels. Car production and shipbuilding capacity would be enhanced with the help of the government, according to the economic blueprint.

The agriculture ministry announced plans to improve its marketing capacity in overseas markets and the construction ministry said it would improve financing packages for South Korean firms with overseas building contracts.

Japan: No longer the job-for-life country

TOKYO (AFP) — With blue chips such as Nippon Steel, Hitachi, Mazda and Honda either slashing payrolls, temporarily laying off staff or redeploying them in distant subsidiaries, Japan no longer looks like a country where employees keep jobs for life.

"The state of the economy is very poor and I am worried that employment problems might be serious next year," Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organisations (Keidanren), told the government last week.

Even though the recession in Japan has been less severe than those in Europe and the United States, plummeting profit has compelled Japanese firms to restructure and prune costs after many rocky years.

But so far, enterprises have respected a cherished social tradition and refrained from sackings despite overmanning that, according to a survey, afflicts one firm in two.

"It's the biggest issue facing us today," Sony chief Akio Morita said at the weekend.

"In 1994 — and for the first time since World War II — the biggest challenge facing Japanese firms will be to break the jobs-for-life system while avoiding labour disputes," he said.

For decades, a young man or woman entering the workforce could expect to enjoy job security throughout his or her working life, earning a salary according to seniority, with an in-house trade union discreetly settling any dispute with the management.

But Mr. Morita warned that the slide in competitiveness and rise in the yen "do not allow us to maintain such thinking." He called for "a complete change."

Keizo Saji, the chief of Suntory, agreed that Japan today is "at a turning point."

He noted the growing volume of temporary layoffs in recent weeks and predicted that the small- and medium-sized companies would suffer

the most.

Unemployment in Japan has reached a five-year high of 2.6 per cent, which is far below Europe's 12 per cent and the seven per cent in the United States.

But a fall in job offers has prompted the government to ask the labour ministry for measures to boost employment to be in place by mid-November and a long-term policy to be operational by year's end.

Yet the big question is how long Japanese firms, refusing to swallow the bitter pill of job sackings, can continue to pay hundreds of thousands of employees to do nothing.

Firms are trying to cope by drawing on financial reserves that, for the corporate giants, are worth tens of billions of dollars. Other methods are to trim salaries and overtime hours, retire staff early or redeploy them in subsidiaries, hire fewer newcomers or accept state subsidies.

The result is that Japanese companies are losing competi-

tiveness, a trend accentuated by the rising yen.

"We may see some sackings here and there, as in 1986," after the first sharp surge in the yen, Deputy Finance Minister Kosuke Nakahira, predicted.

As in 1974 after the first oil shock, firms let employees go. Debate about the jobs-for-life system flared during the two brief recessions since then.

But it is a debate that deeply troubles the Japanese public — as witnessed by the emotional response and cries of treason when Pioneer early this year forced 35 senior executives into retirement.

For Yoshihara Fukuhara, the head of Shiseido, "the system will evolve, but in a non-brutal Japanese way, not like the American style."

Kenneth Courtis, economist at Deutsche Bank Capital Markets (Asia) said that Japanese firms still had "substantial room for manoeuvre," even if the unemployment rate reaches 3.0 to 3.1 per cent next year.

He cited the ability to further cut wages and working hours. In addition, the ageing of the workforce meant there would be a labour shortage in the middle of the decade.

Japan oil firms pull out of Saudi refinery deal

TOKYO (R) — Three Japanese oil companies have given up on a multi-billion-dollar joint venture with Saudi Arabia to build oil refineries in Japan, the companies said in a joint statement Monday.

The project, estimated to cost one trillion yen (about \$10 billion), was to include Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company Aramco and Caltex Petroleum Corp., a 50-50 joint venture of Texaco Inc. and Chevron Corp., as well.

"Since talks on the deal started two years ago, there have been unexpected changes in the environment such as a slowdown in the Japanese economy and a fall in demand," Nippon Oil Co. Ltd., Nikko Kyodo Co. Ltd. and Arabian Oil Co. Ltd. said in a joint statement.

"We have explained the situation to Saudi Aramco and talks on this deal have been closed," it said.

Moldova to curb inflation in new deal with IMF

KISHINYOV (R) — Moldova, where consumer prices jumped 64 per cent in September alone, wants to bring monthly inflation rates down to one per cent under a tough deal agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last month.

"I am optimistic," IMF Moldova mission chief Abdessattar Ouannes told Reuters in an interview. "It is a very good and ambitious programme to gain the support of the fund and the international community."

The programme, if it is approved by top IMF officials in Washington and by Moldova's own leadership, could pave the way for the former Soviet republic to receive IMF loans of about \$100 million this year.

These would comprise \$32 million as the second half of a special transformation facility designed to speed the path to capitalism from communism and \$70 million of a standby loan.

The IMF deal, signed with medium-ranking Moldova officials, aims to bring the 1994 budget deficit down to 3.5 per cent of gross national product, from six per cent this year. The package provides for a "strong and tight monetary policy" to bring inflation down, Mr. Ouannes said.

Moldova, a landlocked state sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine, has faced big problems in trying to propel its largely agricultural economy

towards a market system in the two years since the Soviet Union fell apart. Industrial production has fallen and privatisation has been slow to get off the ground.

The economics ministry said unemployment could reach 20 per cent next year unless the government takes decisive measures to create new jobs and retrain workers. Official figures put current Moldovan unemployment at 14,000, but there are only 963 registered job vacancies.

September's inflation rate was the highest this year and officials said hopes of economic stabilisation were fading fast.

"In September stabilisation stopped, industrial output in January to September was 18.4 per cent below the same period in 1992 and agricultural output fell 12 per cent," the state statistics department said.

Higher prices for fuel have triggered an energy crisis and new government regulations mean shops and firms must close at dusk to keep consumption down. The regulations ban the use of electricity for heating and advertisements. Street lighting will be cut by 75 per cent.

Moldova, which has no energy resources of its own, relies on fuel deliveries from Russia and Ukraine. But officials say only 15 per cent of the tiny country's demand for energy has been met so far this year.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.4818/28	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2958/68	Deutschemarks
	1.6925/35	Dutch guilders
	1.8900/00	Swiss francs
	1.4925/35	Belgian francs
	35.92/96	French francs
	5.8730/30	Italian lire
	1643.8/5.3	Japanese yen
	108.03/13	Swedish crowns
	8.0969/16	Norwegian crowns
	7.3395/95	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	377.75/378.25	

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Indian Festival Open Invitation

The Indian community living in Jordan is celebrating **Diwali** (the Festival of Lights) at the premises of the Embassy of India, First Circle, Jabal Amman, on **Friday, Nov. 12, 1993**. Also explored during the festivities will be possibilities of expanding Indian cultural and social activities in Jordan.

All Indians are invited to attend.
Function will start at 5.30 p.m.
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Yeltsin aide defends retreat from presidential elections

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A Kremlin spokesman said Monday that Boris Yeltsin decided against early presidential elections because he had already won two powerful mandates from the Russian people.

Anatoly Kravkov, head of Mr. Yeltsin's press service, confirmed a news agency report quoting the president as saying he planned to serve out his five-year term until 1996 instead of keeping a promise to submit to fresh elections in June.

"Yes, the president made such a statement," Mr. Kravkov said by telephone. "Today he considers it pointless to hold early elections."

He added that Mr. Yeltsin, 62, had won the people's backing not only in 1991 presidential elections — the first time in their 1,000-year history that Russians had democratically elected their head of state — but also to a referendum last April.

The spokesman, stressing he was giving his personal opinion, said early presidential elections would only have distracted attention from vital parliamentary polls which Mr. Yeltsin has set for Dec. 12.

Mr. Kravkov acknowledged that Mr. Yeltsin's critics in both Russia and the West would attack his decision.

"I'm absolutely not afraid of this. I'm absolutely convinced that a section of the media and public opinion here and in the

West may react negatively to this decision," he said.

"But this should be balanced on the scales against the fate of a country which may be about to get its first normal parliament in 1,000 years... it's important now to direct all our efforts towards preparing these parliamentary elections."

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin threw his full support behind Mr. Yeltsin with an emphatic statement Sunday, a day marked by low-key communist demonstrations to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

consider absolutely correct the president's intention to continue working until the expiry of his legitimate powers," he said in a statement published by the ITAR-TASS news agency.

"This is the position of a highly decent and responsible man, conscious of his civic duty to the country and each of its citizens," Mr. Chernomyrdin added, saying his government would help Mr. Yeltsin fulfil his "historic mission."

U.S. President Bill Clinton also declined to criticise the Kremlin leader in a weekend television interview.

"As long as he is promoting democracy, as long as he is supporting human rights, as long as he is supporting reform, I think the United States should support him," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Yeltsin made the June election pledge to demonstrate his commitment to democracy shortly after he dissolved parliament in September — in breach of the Soviet-era constitution — and called legislative elections for December.

Opponents to Russia brand Mr. Yeltsin a dictator for riding roughshod over the constitution and triggering subsequent violence in Moscow. About 150 people were killed when the president sent in troops and tanks to crush a revolt by hardline supporters of parliament.

Western governments hacked Mr. Yeltsin's dissolution of parliament, which had thwarted his reform moves at every step, and said his subsequent use of force was justified.

But some expressed concern about his democratic credentials when Mr. Yeltsin hatched his reform moves at every step, and said his subsequent use of force was justified.

Mr. Yeltsin would have been the strong favourite to win reelection in a June ballot.

But the Kremlin chief, often rumoured to be in poor health, has hinted he wants to give up the strains of political life in 1996 rather than being reelected and serving until 1999.

"Everybody knows how many blows of fate I have

already suffered. It is too much for one man," Interfax quoted him as saying at a meeting with newspaper editors Saturday.

Mr. Krasikov said a previously-issued Yeltsin decree June elections would be cancelled either by the president himself or by the new parliament. He declined to predict what would happen if the latter opposed scrapping the polls.

Yeltsin signs draft constitution

President Yeltsin Monday signed the draft version of a new Russian constitution which will be submitted for voters' approval to a referendum on Dec. 12, a Kremlin spokesman said.

He said Yeltsin signed the text after introducing several amendments. The spokesman declined to give further details of the draft, which was to be published Tuesday.

President Yeltsin's supporters hold an early lead in the race for next month's parliamentary elections, but most Russians remain undecided or don't plan to vote, according to an opinion poll.

Election officials said Monday that 21 parties submitted lists of 100,000 or more voter signatures to qualify for the Dec. 12 election. The signatures were being checked and parties that qualified to run would be announced this week, they said.



This picture shows the front page of British Sunday Mirror newspaper showing the Princess of Wales during a fitness training session at a private gym in London (AFP photo)

Diana considers legal action over gym photos

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana is considering legal action over secretly-taken photographs, published in a newspaper, of her working out in a gymnasium, her lawyers said Monday.

In a statement, recording her distress and outrage, they added that she was grateful for widespread condemnation "of this gross intrusion into her privacy."

The photographs were first published by Britain's Sunday Mirror and its daily tabloid sister published a second set on Monday. The photographs of the princess in an exercise leotard provoked a "peeping-tom" furore and increased pressure on the government to curb press intrusions.

"The Princess of Wales has noted with distress and a deep sense of outrage that without her knowledge or consent personal photographs of her were taken by means of a hidden camera while she was engaged in physical exercises at a private gymnasium and that these photographs have been... published by the Sunday Mirror and the Daily Mirror in their recent issues," the statement from her solicitors said.

It added: "The princess' advisers are for their part considering what legal action may be appropriate."

Britain's fiercely competitive newspaper industry united to condemn the Daily Mirror for printing the shots taken at a private West London fitness club and warned the controversy could speed a legal crackdown on press freedom.

An unusually stern statement from Buckingham Palace warning of "follow-up action" also fuelled speculation that the estranged wife of her late husband Prince Charles might be considering suing the club for breach of trust.

But the Mirror, sister paper of the tabloid that carried five pages of Diana working out in a skin-tight leotard and cycling shorts Sunday, lashed out at the widespread criticism of its behaviour in Monday's edition.

"Led by Lord McGregor of the Press Complaints Commission, a rag-bag of MPs rushed to spew out indignation on radio and TV," the newspaper said in a lengthy editorial. "Rarely has there been such an extraordinary display of hypocritical opportunism," it declared.

Man arrested in California arson probe

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man suspected of threatening to set fires to get even with the government was arrested, and authorities investigated whether he is to blame for 19 suspicious wildfires, including one that killed three people.

Federal and local authorities arrested the suspect, who was not identified, early Sunday, said Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Patrick Hauser.

The man was watched for several days before his arrest, the Los Angeles Times and KCBS-TV news reported, citing unidentified federal sources.

Authorities said he may have written a letter threatening to start fires. Federal charges of sending a threat through the mail could be filed against him as early as Monday, the Times reported.

The writer of the letter said fires would be set in retaliation for the seizure of his property by federal agents. The letter, signed "Feddubster," was sent in September to about 35 law enforcement agencies in southern California.

"I'm going to set a big fire, actually more than one, to settle a score with one of these agencies and other government people," the author wrote. The writer demanded a TV apology and that a written apology be placed on a billboard along the San Diego freeway near Long Beach.

Meanwhile, the Malibu arson blaze that began Tuesday and burned across 19,000 acres, killing three people, was 100 per cent contained Sunday evening, Los Angeles County Fire Inspector Angel

Sarajevo civilian evacuees set off for Belgrade

SARAJEVO (AFP) — The first buses in a convoy evacuating hundreds of Bosnian Serb civilians set off from Sarajevo bus station Monday after chaotic delays as authorities protested the planned route and insisted on searching baggage.

Two buses left Sarajevo bus station at 12:45 p.m. (1145 GMT) with some 55 people packed on each, the strain of the occasion written on the faces of the refugees, some of who broke down in tears.

Relatives waved goodbye through the rain as the buses pulled out, escorted by U.N. Protection Force armoured cars which was to guard the buses across Bosnian Serb lines.

The evacuees were due to change buses at the Serb-held Lukavica district near Sarajevo Airport, before travelling on to Belgrade.

In total some 642 Serbs had been due to leave in the biggest evacuation of civilians from Sarajevo in nearly a year.

But aid officials were sceptical, one saying he believed only 200 would manage to leave Monday.

About an hour after leaving the convoy had passed the last checkpoint manned by the mainly-Muslim Bosnian army at Stup Bridge, after being held up for around 15 minutes while the passenger list was checked, said Ray Wilkinson, the UNHCR spokesman, here.

Meanwhile, a number of evacuees accused city officials searching their luggage of taking electronic equipment, gold rings, necklaces and other items of jewellery, and confiscating cash in excess of 100 German marks (\$70).

"They have taken away gold rings, money, technical equipment and you are only allowed (to take out) 100 marks but no more," said Radmila Kuc, 30, who has been attempting to leave Sarajevo with her sick elderly parents for a year.

Meanwhile, Fikret Abdic, the maverick leader of the mainly-Muslim northwest Bosnian pocket of Bihać, signed a deal with senior officials of the Bosnian Croat and Serb communities at his stronghold of Velika Kladusa Sunday, the Croat News Agency (HINA) reported.

Don't mess with this mother-in-law

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — A New Zealander is ruing the day he argued with his mother-in-law after she decided to end the debate with a machete. Police said Monday the 64-year-old woman would be charged with threatening to kill, professing an offensive weapon and causing wilful damage after the weekend incident in Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city. After an argument, the mother-in-law stormed off and returned brandishing the machete. The man fled and locked himself in his bedroom, but the door proved no match. She hacked her way through it and her son-in-law scrambled through a window with the woman in hot pursuit. He managed to escape but not before the enraged mother-in-law had shattered the windscreen of his car.

Madonna rocks Rio despite church condemnation

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Given a choice of listening to Madonna or obeying the Roman Catholic Church, up to 120,000 fans voted with their feet, packing the Maracana Soccer Stadium to hear her rock the socks off Rio. "I love Rio," Madonna told the crowd in Portuguese as she transformed the world's largest outdoor arena into a giant hock party Saturday night. The city's Roman Catholic archdiocese had condemned the pop star's presence and urged Catholics not to go to the "she:ness exhibition of eroticism and depravity." Its warnings appeared to have little effect. Officially, 110,000 tickets were sold for Madonna's Girdle Show concert, but organisers said up to 120,000 fans attended. "It was like a giant block party with everyone singing and dancing in harmony," said concert-goer Larry Shapiro. Blocked by a Rio court from using the Brazilian flag in her show, Madonna instead draped herself in the Flamengo Soccer Club flag for several songs. The audience, accustomed to cheering on Brazil's most popular sports team, roared its approval. In another court action, Rio's Juvenile Court had raised the minimum age for those attending the show from 10 to 14 — but one fan said gatekeepers at the stadium did not check anyone's I.D. for age. Before the concert, Madonna told reporters she was in love with the beauty of Rio and didn't understand why Brazil got so much bad press for violence and misery. "It's much more peaceful here than in Los Angeles," she told the Rio daily Jornal Do Brazil.

Magnesium fails to help heart patients — study

ATLANTA (AFP) — Magnesium administered to patients who suffered heart attacks failed to lower mortality rates, according to a study that dashed hopes for a new cardiac treatment. The report contradicted the findings of a 1992 British study that generated considerable hope among cardiologists, which indicated that magnesium injections cut heart attacks by 25 per cent. Commenting on the latest findings, Dr. Lars Wilhelmsen of Eastern Hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden, said, "it teaches us not to rely on small trials." The study also found that drugs called mooninators — another prospective drug in reducing mortality — failed to reduce deaths from heart attacks but did help relieve chest pains. Yet another drug tested, an inhibitor called Captopril, did slightly reduce mortality rates after heart attacks from 7.33 per cent to 6.87 per cent. The study of patients from 1,000 hospitals in 30 countries was reported at the annual meeting of the American Heart Association.

U.K. to crack down on hunt saboteurs

LONDON (R) — Britain's Conservative government announced Saturday it was cracking down on anti-bloodsport activists who disrupt foxhunts, the traditional country pursuit of the upper classes. Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Michael Howard said in a speech just a few days into the fox-hunting season that the government planned to introduce laws to protect country sports from "young thugs" as part of a package of anti-crime measures. Hunt-saboteurs who obstruct or disrupt country sports, or intimidate the hunters would face up to three months' imprisonment or a maximum fine of £2,500 (\$3,698) under the government's plans.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bomb kills 9 in India

GUWAHATI, India (R) — At least nine people were killed and 35 wounded when a bomb exploded at a railway station in the northeast Indian state of Nagaland Monday, officials said. The death toll could rise, senior policeman Vijay Kumar Tripathi said by telephone from Kohima, the Nagaland capital. "More people might die because the condition of about 15 of those injured is critical. The bomb was really powerful," he said. No one immediately claimed responsibility but intelligence officials suspected it was the work of the separatist National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), which is fighting for an independent state.

China to crack down on unrest

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, warning of threats to national unity, said the ruling Communist Party would move swiftly to wipe out separatists and religious opponents, it was reported Monday. Mr. Jiang, both president and party chief, issued the warning Sunday at the close of a national meeting to devise ways of increasing social cohesion at a time when market-style reforms are reshaping the face of China. "We must take timely steps against any activities aimed at damaging ties between the nationalities, national unity and social stability (and) absolutely cannot be tolerant or indecisive," Mr. Jiang said in the speech. "We must restrict and crack down on the use of religion to carry out criminal and unlawful activities," he added. The government is facing rising nationalist sentiment among ethnic minorities. Early last month it crushed a Muslim uprising in the west after the largest mass unrest since the 1989 pro-democracy movement.

6th Chinese plane hijacked to Taiwan

TAIPEI (AFP) — A lone hijacker wielding fake explosives forced a Chinese domestic airliner to land in Taiwan Monday after surrendering to police, in the sixth such incident this year, airport officials here said. The man, identified as Wang Zhihua, 36, of Heilongjiang in northeastern China, surrendered to airport security and explained to them how he carried out the operation, the officials said. The Zhejiang Airlines airliner, with 54 passengers and five crew onboard, was hijacked on a domestic flight from Hanzhou to the coastal city of Fuzhou in southeastern China, they said. It landed at Taiwan's international airport, about 40 kilometres south of Taipei, at 2:44 p.m. (0644 GMT). Police said Wang gave a note to an air stewardess saying it was a hijacking. He also showed a bag wrapped with newspaper claiming it was explosive. The pilot contacted Taiwan Airport authorities at 14:08 (0608 GMT) telling them the plane was hijacked. The bag was later discovered to contain only pieces of soap and wires, police said.

2 dead in Vladivostok carbomb

MOSCOW (AFP) — Two people were killed and two others seriously injured in a carbomb explosion in the Far Eastern city of Vladivostok, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported Monday. The Friday explosion, activated by a remote control device, killed a provincial foreign trade official, Mikhail Aleynikov, and his driver, and injured two of his bodyguards. The carbomb exploded in the parking lot of a luxury hotel in the city, the Akfes-Sevo.

Nigerian road accident kills 20

LAGOS (R) — At least 20 people were burnt to death when a passenger bus and a petrol tanker collided and burst into flames in Nigeria, police said Monday. Police Commissioner Baba Ahmadu of Kwara state said there was as yet no precise death toll from the accident Sunday but denied newspaper reports that up to 63 people were killed. "We are not sure of the number of people involved. The death toll could be anything between 20 and 30," he told Reuters by telephone. He said the police were investigating the cause of the accident involving a petrol tanker and a 23-seater bus carrying Kwara State Polytechnic students from town to their main campus. Newspapers said the fully loaded bus rolled backwards and hit the tanker after its gears and breaks failed on a steep road on the outskirts of the state capital, Ilorin.

World water shortages spreading

WASHINGTON (AP) — People from Los Angeles to Beijing to Riyadh are having to look further and further away for fresh water, and a new report says water scarcity is a spreading global problem. Proposals to tow around icebergs from Antarctica or to fill giant plastic bladders with lake water will not be enough to quench the world's thirst, said Bob Engelman, co-author of the Population Action International report. Other ideas include building desalination plants of international water-pipelines. "Expense keeps getting in the way," Mr. Engelman said in an interview. "The bottom line of this is simply that the rate of population growth in countries experiencing water scarcity is vastly outpacing population growth of the world as a whole," he said. By 2025, one out of three people will be living in countries with inadequate fresh water supplies, said the report Sustaining Water: Population And The Future Of Renewable Water Supplies. The current ratio is about one out of 15.

Georgian troops approach border with Abkhazia

TBILISI (AP) — Georgian troops moved to the border with the separatist region of Abkhazia Monday, while negotiators scrambled to organise peace talks and prevent a new outbreak of violence.

Soso Margishvili, chief spokesman for the Georgian military, said troops had taken up position on the Inguri River, which forms the border between Georgia and Abkhazia, a breakaway region controlled by separatists.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told reporters over the weekend that his country must regain Abkhazia, a rich and fertile region on the Black Sea that fell to separatists in September, by diplomatic or military means.

U.N. negotiators this weekend held separate talks with officials from Abkhazia, Georgia and Russia in an effort to put together a peace plan to end the fighting that has devastated much of western Georgia and Abkhazia.

Several obstacles must be overcome before talks could begin. Abkhazia wants guarantees Georgia will not launch new attacks before talks start, while Georgia insists Abkhazia recognise its territorial integrity.

Meanwhile, tension remained high in western Georgia in areas recently seized by government troops from supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhordia, who reportedly has fled to Abkhazia. Georgian troops executed

pursuing dialogue while maintaining a strong defensive posture.

"Clinton is repeating our bottom line that North Korea should not be allowed to possess nuclear weapons," he told AFP, recalling that Mr. Clinton had made similar remarks in South Korea during his visit here in July.

Cha Young-Ku, research director for the state-backed Korea Institute for Defence Analysis, agreed there was "nothing new in the statement."

"Since there are already U.S. troops here, any attack on the South would inevitably have an effect on the United States," he said.

The United States led U.N. forces against North Korean and Chinese troops during the 1950-1953 Korean War. Some 36,000 U.S. troops remain here as a "tripwire" against renewed aggression and a reminder that an attack on the South will automatically draw America and allied U.N. troops into the fray.

Mr. Clinton's remarks came only days after U.S. Secretary

Clinton warning of N. Korea seen as tougher line

SEOUL (AFP) — President Bill Clinton's warning that a North Korean attack on South Korea would mean a fight with the United States was seen by Seoul officials Monday as confirmation of long-standing policy, but some analysts said it marked a hardening line.

Michael Breen, a North Korea specialist with Seoul-based Merit Consulting, told AFP that in "the last few days, there seems to be a real change in the tone of what is coming out of U.S. military and intelligence."

"Clinton is probably talking tough because somebody has told him you can negotiate with the North Koreans but they see it as a sign of weakness," he added.

Mr. Clinton said in a television interview Sunday that a North Korean attack against the South would be viewed as an attack against the United States and reiterated that Communist Pyongyang "cannot be allowed to develop a nuclear bomb."

A senior Foreign Ministry official, speaking privately, said the U.S. leader was simply reconfirming stated policy of

Defence Les Aspin returned from a trip to Tokyo and Seoul in which he offered to work with Tokyo to develop an anti-ballistic missile defence against Pyongyang's Scuds and announced that Washington and Seoul would not cancel annual joint war games.

A top defence official travelling with Mr. Aspin warned that North Korea had massed 70 per cent of its troops on the border in recent years and that there was a risk of a surprise, conventional attack on the South.

North Korea's ruling Communist Party last week summoned an emergency Central Committee meeting for next week, apparently to work out a stance in the face of mounting international pressure for the North to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities.

South Korea's official Naewoo Press, which monitors the North, also reported that Pyongyang had renewed training by military aircraft and vessels and ordered frontline troops to shave their heads, an oriental gesture of determination viewed here as an ominous sign.

North Korean Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-Jin last week warned that an earlier Seoul statement refusing to rule out military force made it "inevitable for us to answer them with force of arms."

North Korea has raised suspicions it is forging ahead with a nuclear weapons programme by barring full-fledged International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of its facilities since January.

Last month, Pyongyang said it would no longer negotiate the matter with the IAEA and would only discuss it with the United States. That move led to a U.N. General Assembly resolution on Nov. 1 urging the North to fulfill its international obligations and allow resumed inspections.

North Korea has massed military forces near the border with South Korea, Japan's Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito was quoted as saying Monday.

"We have such information. It's true that the country has massed forces," Mr. Saito was quoted by the Jiji Press as saying at a news conference.

Sports

Jordan soccer championship kicks off today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's most-awaited soccer event, the first division soccer championship, will be the season's final major competition organized by the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF).

This year 12 teams will play a total of 132 matches at three main stadiums at Al Hussein Sports City, Irbid Municipal Stadium and Al Petra Stadium in Amman.

The JSF had put this year's competition on hold pending the completion of work at the capital's main stadium at Al Hussein Youth City. The national team's preparations and participation in the World Cup qualifying matches during the past summer also hindered the beginning of the competition.

The JSF had earlier announced holding the competition on a one-round

basis, however most clubs and observers objected to that system and backed the final decision to go ahead with the traditional two-legged competition at the end of which four teams will be relegated to the second division.

Al Qadissieh and Al Yarmouk play the opening match of the first leg's 66 matches ending on Dec. 17.

The crammed schedule will surely be hectic to players and fans alike, but title holder's Al Faisali are sure to expect tough competition from Al Wihdat, Al Ramtha and Al Hussein.

Al Faisali have won the title more than 20 times since the competition began in 1945 with three other teams — Al Urdun, Al Ahli and Homenmen — taking part. They have clinched the title 7 times in the past 13 seasons.

This year however their players might be suffering from fatigue after a tough season with the national team

as well as playing in the Cup Winner's Cup (which they won) and the Jordan Cup in which they will face Al Ramtha in the final.

The second contender is 1991 titleholders Al Wihdat, who have already secured an impressive record of their own.

They will try to achieve an advanced standing after failing to capture this year's Cup Winner's Cup, Jordan Cup and Federation Shield.

Last year's runner-up Al Hussein will try again for the title which has so far eluded them after getting very close on many occasions.

Al Ramtha, who won this season's Federation Shield, will also be another strong contender and are in good form to challenge the other top-three teams.

Al Ahli's best record was finishing third in 1985 and 1989. They will seek to establish themselves as serious contenders among the usual

all-time rivals of soccer's new era in the Kingdom.

Other teams in the competition are Al Qadissieh, semifinalists in this year's Jordan Cup, and Sahab who eliminated Al Wihdat in the same competition.

Al Yarmouk and Al Arabi, who finished bottom-of-the-league last season, will be clashing with newly-promoted Al Baqaa, Al Jazireh and Fuhais as they strive to avoid relegation.

First Division champions

1980:	Al Wihdat
1981:	Al Ramtha
1982:	Al Ramtha
1983:	Al Faisali
1984:	Amman
1985:	Al Faisali
1986:	Al Faisali
1987:	Al Wihdat
1988:	Al Faisali
1989:	Al Faisali
1990:	Al Faisali
1991:	Al Wihdat
1992:	Al Faisali

Parma ruin Milan's party mood

PARIS (AFP) — Parma beat Juventus 2-0 with late goals to take top spot in the Italian League Sunday, spoiling AC Milan's party.

Earlier, Milan had got back to winning ways with a 2-1 victory over Internazionale in the city's derby match.

But two dead ball kicks from Gianfranco Zola and Sweden's Thomas Brodin meant Cup Winners' Cup champions Parma had more reason to celebrate.

With Colombian Faustino Asprilla closely marked, it was left to Zola, from a free kick in the 83rd minute, and Brodin's penalty three minutes from time, to find the target.

At the San Siro, a 34th minute goal from defender Christian Panucci and Jean-Pierre Papin's strike eight minutes after the break put Fabio Capello's side in charge.

But a 63rd minute penalty, converted by Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp, ensured a tense finale.

The victory had allowed Milan to leapfrog Juventus at the top of the table but only because the Turin side was not playing its match against Parma until the evening.

Sampdoria, who beat Milan last weekend and started the day level with Juventus, were stunned at home by two goals in the space of a minute from Cagliari.

Mauro Bertarelli had fired Sampdoria ahead with three minutes on the clock.

But Massimo Allegri equalised on 69 minutes and a minute later Gianfranco Matteoli converted a penalty after Pietro Vierchowod had handled in the area.

The defender was ordered off but despite being reduced to ten men, Sampdoria should

have snatched a point when England captain David Platt was brought down in the Cagliari box.

But Italy forward Roberto Mancini missed the penalty.

Tear gas was used by police at the goalless draw between Atalanta and Piacenza Sunday.

Disappointed with their team's eighth match without a win, Atalanta supporters blocked players' path between the dressing room and their coach, which was ready to leave.

Police finally cleared the area, two hours later, by using tear gas.

In Spain, Valencia completed a disappointing week for the Spanish club by dropping from first to fourth in the Spanish championship with their 2-0 setback at Sporting Gijon.

Deportivo Coruna had a quiet return to domestic football following their UEFA Cup win over England's Aston Villa. A goalless draw at Real Valladolid kept them in third spot.

Monaco coach Arsene Wenger believed his side's 1-1 draw with French League leaders Paris St. Germain was not too bad a result.

Though hosts Monaco were expected to knock PSG down a peg or two, Wenger consoled himself that they had avoided defeat.

"Defeat would have put us seven points adrift, and that would have been a dramatic deficit," he said. Wenger played an extra man in defence — Lilian Thuram, just ahead of sweeper Franck Dumas — signalling a loss was not acceptable at any price.

PSG, buoyed up by their success in the European Cup Winners' Cup this week, took the lead in the fourth minute through French international David Ginola, but Enzo Scifo levelled 10 minutes after the break.

Bordeaux remain second in the table after beating 10-man Lyon 2-0, with goals by Christophe Dugarry and Didier Senac. But Lyon were down to 10 men after only 15 minutes when newly-signed Brazilian sweeper Marcelo Kiehmiddjian got his marching orders for a professional foul on Christophe Dugarry.

Daniel Dutel and Dragan Stojkovic brought some much-needed cheer to the 20,000 spectators at the Stade Velodrome, as Olympique Marseille (OM) beat Caen 2-0. Dutel opened the scoring after 10 minutes and Serbian Stojkovic hit home from the spot in the 61st minutes.

A double from Austrian international Toni Polster saw champions Werder Bremen, who reached the Champions League of the European Cup in mid-week, beaten by the same scoreline at FC Cologne.

Jari Litmanen's 11th league goal of the season sparked off another tornado win for Ajax Amsterdam against FC Volendam.

The Finnish international, whose goals have come from just 13 games, got the opener on the stroke of half-time as Ajax beat Groeninge 3-1 to stay on the heels of leaders Feyenoord. Stefan Petersson and Ronald De Boer followed up with second half goals.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Xavier Escaich and Juan Juanele were the scorers, causing Valencia fans more misery after their 7-0 loss (8-3 on aggregate) to Karlsruhe in the UEFA Cup in midweek.

Valencia's Dutch coach Guus Hiddink, who said the UEFA result was one of the worst in the club's history, had to take a further blow on the chin.

Barcelona, who went through to the European Champions League in midweek, had a 2-1 win over Racing Santander thanks to Hristo Stoichkov and Brazilian star Romario.

But Sevilla prevented Johan Cruyff's team taking top spot with their 3-1 home victory over Rayo Vallecano. Diego Simeone, Jose, Carvajal and Davor Suker fired home for Sevilla.

Tauziat beats Maleeva in quebec

QUEBEC CITY (R) — Nathalie Tauziat of France won her first title since 1991 with a 6-4 6-1 victory over Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria in the final of the 150,000 Bell Challenge Tennis Tournament Sunday.

The third-seeded Tauziat seized momentum with a critical first-set service break and rolled to victory over the fourth seed in 68 minutes.

"I played well all week," said the 18th-ranked Tauziat, whose last title came at a lower-echelon event in Val d'Osse, France in 1991.

Tauziat said she was determined to overcome a pair of

disappointments earlier this year when she narrowly missed reaching finals at Schenectady, New York, and Filderstadt, Germany.

"I had my chances at two other tournaments this year and I missed them. I really wanted to win this time," added Tauziat, who earned \$27,000.

The match was evenly contested through the first nine games of the opening set. But Tauziat broke Maleeva at 5-4 to take the first set.

Maleeva felt the turning point came a bit later when she failed to convert game points in both the third and fourth

games of the second set.

"If I had gone ahead 3-1 instead of being down 1-3 in the second set, it might have been a different story," Maleeva said. "On the important points, when she was down, Nathalie served well."

Tauziat credited her coach, Regis De Camaret, with the improvement in her delivery.

"He has really been helpful," Tauziat said.

"For this whole tournament I served well and backed it up with my volleying."

"It makes me laugh because three years ago everyone said I had a lousy serve. Now all the players say that it's great."

Navratilova claims 166th title

OAKLAND, California (R) — Top-seed Martina Navratilova saved her easiest match for last as she scored a straight sets victory over third-seeded fellow American Zina Garrison-Jackson in the final of the 375,000 Bank of the West Classic Sunday.

Navratilova beat Garrison-Jackson 6-2, 7-6 (7-1) to claim her 166th career title and raise her lopsided record against the serve and volleying Texan to 33-1.

"It's sweet," said the 37-year-old Navratilova, who needed three sets to win her quarterfinal and saved two match points in Saturday's semifinal.

"I've won so many tournaments and more and more now I appreciate it," said Navratilova, who collected \$75,000 for her efforts. "It's a major league bonus to still be out there."

Navratilova served well throughout the opening set and broke Garrison-Jackson in the first and seventh games to take the set.

The top seed's first serve percentage tapered off in the second set and Garrison-Jackson began attacking net with greater success to make a contest of the match.

The two veterans traded service breaks in the third and fourth games and the 19th-ranked Garrison-Jackson broke again in the fifth as she rolled to a 5-2 lead.

But Navratilova did not want to play a third set and refused to allow Garrison-Jackson to hold her serve again as she forced the tie-break.

The third seed missed on several passing attempts during the tie-break and from 1-1, Navratilova reeled off the final six points of the match.

"The biggest difference between our games is the second serve," Navratilova said.

"I can attack her second serve a whole lot better than she can attack mine and that's quite often the difference in our matches."

Ivanisevic wins Paris Open

PARIS (AP) — Goran Ivanisevic said he had eight months holiday. Now it is back to hard work — and winning.

Ivanisevic was hampered by a stress fracture early in the year. It took him until September to win his first tournament of the year.

Now he has been in three consecutive finals, winning

two, including Sunday's Paris Open. Ivanisevic fired 27 aces and 32 service winners to beat Andrei Medvedev, 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2), in the \$2.1 million tennis tournament.

"I have been playing well the last two months and this is like a gift for the hard work," Ivanisevic said.

"I had eight months holi-

day... I couldn't come back. I was just struggling. I played one tournament good and five bad. Then I put too much pressure on myself."

Now, Ivanisevic is suddenly the hottest player on the circuit. He's making a late rush to gain a spot in the season-ending ATP Tour World Championships starting in Frankfurt, Germany, on Nov. 16.

He must do well in this week's European Community Championships in Antwerp, Belgium.

The Croatian asked the Antwerp organizers for a wildcard into the tournament to make sure he would be among the top eight players of the year to reach the World Championships.

Six of the eight slots are already clinched by Medvedev, Pete Sampras, Jim Courier, Sergi Bruguera, Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg.

Ivanisevic, Boris Becker and France's Cedric Pioline will be in Antwerp, trying to clinch one of the two remaining slots.

American Michael Chang, still ranked seventh going into the week, could be ousted by one of them.

Ivanisevic was impressive in beating No. 1 ranked Sampras, No. 6 Edberg, No. 7 Chang and No. 8 Medvedev.

"To beat four top 10 guys in one tournament is not easy," said Ivanisevic, who received \$314,000.

Cantona ends Man. United's Euro blues

MANCHESTER, England (AFP) — Eric Cantona blocked out his problems with UEFA to power Manchester United to a 3-2 win over neighbours Manchester City Sunday.

The French striker scored twice as United fought back from two goals down to retain their 11 point lead at the top of the English Premiership.

Cantona went into the game with a UEFA investigation looming into allegations that he accused referees of corruption after getting a red card against Galatasaray last week.

But his magic saw United to a memorable victory in the 119th Manchester derby that made up for some of the disappointment of falling out of the European Champions Cup at the Turks hands.

City dominated the first half. Niall Quinn's two goals looked

enough to end United's run of six successive league wins.

Quinn rose above Paul Parker to head past Peter Schmeichel in the 21st minute. He added a second 11 minutes later. A David White shot flashed across the goalmouth, Terry Phelan returned the ball and Quinn darted in front of Gary Pallister to head over the advancing Schmeichel.

United had to wait until well into the second half before they clicked into top gear.

Michel Vonk tried a back header which was woefully short of goalkeeper Tony Coton and Cantona nipped in to score with a 52nd minute cross shot.

After 78 minutes, substitute Ryan Giggs curled the ball behind city's split defenders for Cantona to split the finishing touch with his ninth goal of the season.

United poured forward and gained their reward three minutes from the end when Lee Sharpe fouled Denis Irwin whose deep cross from the left was sidefooted in by Roy Keane.

United manager Alex Ferguson said the magnificent win "gets rid of all the cobwebs" from the ill-fated trip to Istanbul.

"This keeps the momentum going for us. All the teams in the league and probably everyone in the country was hoping we would lose today."

"We were punished for mistakes in the first half but the second half performance was superb."

"At half time I simply told the lads to keep playing but we had to take more care in and around the penalty box."

"After that we missed a lot of chances but Eric Cantona scored two vital goals to put us back in it."

"Roy Keane snatched the winner so late so City couldn't come back. I never had any doubts about our character but it was the overall performance which pleased me most."

City manager Brian Horton pointed the finger at defender Michel Vonk for costing the club victory.

His weak back header allowed Cantona to claim his first goal and Horton said: "Vonk knows he made a mistake that gave United a lifeline. Niall Quinn scored two great goals for us but when you are playing with a sweeper you must be tight throughout."

"All of a sudden United had a lifeline and started bombing forward."

for next year's World Cup finals.

But there was no call-up for Newcastle's Cole, who has scored 16 goals in 15 matches in all competitions this season.

With no place for the injured Sheringham, who has scored 11 times this season, England go into the match without the League's two highest scorers.

Amman Little League

Following are the standings of the football teams up to Nov. 7, 1993.

SENIORS		
Austrian Airlines	15	(Final)
Mexican Kitchen	11	
Foxboro	9	
Champions	8	(Final)
MIDS		
Intervet	21	
Peugeot	13	(Final)
Al Hikma	11	(Final)
ASC	3	
JUNIORS II		
Junghans	20	(Final)
Milano	17	(Final)
Nashashibi/Ebbini	11	(Final)
Pepsi	3	(Final)
JUNIORS I		
La Cicogna	18	(Final)
Modern Schools	10	(Final)
El Zay	9	(Final)
UPS	8	(Final)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNAN HIRSCH
01822 Troupe Media Services, Inc.

FORGET THE RUBRICS

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 3
♥ 10 7 6 2
♦ 8
♣ A 9 7 4 3

EAST
♠ A J 10 8 7
♥ K
♦ K
♣ K Q 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ 4 4 2
♥ A J 9 8
♦ A J 8 6
♣ 10

The bidding:
East: 1♣ South: 2♥ North: 3♥ Pass
East: 4♥ Pass South: 4♥ Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
By Colburn used to tell the story about a visit to a card factory in the Soviet Union. The product was of superior quality. The manager explained that card-playing was considered a bourgeois pastime and manufacturing cards that did not last was an attempt to eradicate the habit. Judging by the number of people playing bridge these days in the former Soviet republics, the

Communists did not succeed. Here's an excellent defense from the Russian Trials to select a team for the 1993 European Championships.

We have little quarrel about the auction. Had North's king been in any suit except spades though, we would have jumped to four hearts. The queen of spades was universally selected for the opening lead and the defenders quickly relied in their book. West discarding a club. Most Easts shifted to the king of clubs. Declarer won in dummy, ruffed a club, cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. When the king of hearts appeared on a trump lead, declarer won and continued the cross-ruff and emerged with eight trump tricks and the minor-suit aces.

At one table the contract was defeated and there was nothing declarer could do about it. Disregarding the maxim about not giving a ruff-shut, East continued with a fourth spade at trick four. Declarer ruffed and West dumped his remaining club. South could still score eight trump tricks and the ace of diamonds, but any attempt to collect the ace of clubs would allow West to ruff for the setting trick—down one.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Gulf alliance considers unified force

ABU DHABI (AP) — Defence ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) six countries met Monday to discuss creation of a 100,000-strong joint force — a proposal first made after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. The two-day meeting was expected to produce recommendations to be submitted to their six leaders when they meet in the annual GCC summit conference on Dec. 20. The plan to set up the 100,000-strong defence forces was suggested after the GCC's 10,000-man rapid deployment force, known as Peninsula Shield, failed to counter the Iraqi army when it seized Kuwait within a few hours on Aug. 2, 1990.

Iraqi Shi'ites report new attacks in south

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi troops have pushed into rebel-held areas in southern Iraq with tanks, armoured personnel carriers and hundreds of artillery guns, Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency reported Monday. IRNA quoted newly-arrived refugees in Iran as echoing earlier reports that Iraqi forces had launched chemical attacks in the southern marshes and were blocking food and other supplies to the area. IRNA said 148 refugees fleeing the army push have arrived in neighbouring Iran over the past few days.

Spanish king visits Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Spain's King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia arrived Monday for the first state visit by reigning European monarchs to Israel. The king will hold talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian officials, and address parliament. Economic and cultural accords will be signed during the visit, which ends Thursday.

Somali gunmen free Yemeni ship

ADEN, Yemen (R) — Somali gunmen have released the Yemeni cargo ship they seized last month and the ship has arrived in Djibouti, a Yemeni official said Monday. The gunmen let the Mukalla and its crew of 17 leave the port of Bosasso on Saturday after the owners, Yemen Sea Lines, cleared up a misunderstanding with the gunmen, the company's acting general manager, Abdullah Al Afif, told Reuters. Armed tribesmen demanding \$80,000 had seized the ship because of a commercial dispute between the Yemeni state-owned company and local Somali traders. A report in a Yemeni newspaper last week said the gunmen had taken the captain and two other crew members to an undisclosed destination in Somalia. Mr. Afif said the company did not pay the Somalis any money.

PKK to free Western hostages

ANKARA (R) — Guerrillas of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) will free three foreign hostages and 19 Turkish soldiers being held in southeast Turkey, a Kurdish agency said on Monday. "The PKK will release all prisoners it holds on the 16th anniversary of its founding," the German-based Kurd-Ha agency said in a release faxed to Reuters. Quoting a PKK statement, it said one U.S. citizen, one New Zealander and a Dutchman seized by PKK rebels in southeastern Turkey in October would be released.

U.S. starts building new Kuwait embassy

KUWAIT (R) — Wielding a golden shovel, Kuwaiti officials and the U.S. ambassador Monday broke ground for a new embassy in the emirate that the United States helped save from Iraqi occupation. The ceremony took place on a new site donated by Kuwait for the construction of the \$25 million embassy in recognition of Washington's leading role in the Gulf war. "This new American embassy will stand as visible testimony to the strong friendship that exists between our two countries," Ambassador Edward O'Neill said in a speech. "The United States remains committed to our friends in Kuwait. No one should ever doubt our resolve."

Lebanese novelist wins French literary prize

PARIS (AFP) — Lebanese Amin Maalouf on Monday won France's most prestigious literary award, the Goncourt Prize, and immediately said he was "deeply happy for Lebanon." The award was for his novel *Le Rocher de Tanios* (Tanios Rock), a novel about village life in Lebanon in the 19th century. Mr. Maalouf, 44, has written five novels and lived in France since 1976. He has both French and Lebanese nationality. His home is in Paris but he does his writing in the Vendée in western France. He told AFP that Monday was "the most beautiful day of my life." "I came to France from Lebanon 17 years ago with a suitcase and today (have won) the Goncourt which I dreamed about as a child."

Prince Charles meets with King Fahd

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — King Fahd held a late night meeting with Prince Charles Sunday after the throne arrived in the kingdom in a bid to bolster relations between the West and the Islamic World. The official Saudi Press Agency provided no details of the talks in the Red Sea port city. Prince Charles flew into the Saudi capital, Riyadh, earlier Sunday and was hosted to a banquet held by Crown Prince Abdullah before heading for Jeddah to meet the king. Saudi Arabia was the first stop of a three-nation Gulf tour that will also take him to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. The British embassy in Riyadh said one of the objectives of the visit was to help encourage greater understanding between the Christian and Muslim worlds.

Bomb-plot defendant seeks new lawyer

NEW YORK (R) — El Sayyid Nosair, accused of plotting a bombing campaign in New York City, will represent himself in the court does not appoint the lawyer of his choice, his former attorney said. Attorney William Kunstler, who represented Mr. Nosair on charges of murdering radical rabbi Meir Kahane, told a rally of supporters over the weekend Mr. Nosair would dismiss his current court-appointed lawyer. "Nosair will represent himself and is sending the judge a letter saying if he can't have Michael Warren as his lawyer, he will defend himself," Kunstler said. Mr. Warren and Mr. Kunstler successfully defended Mr. Nosair on the 1991 murder charges. However, he was convicted of assault and weapons violations and is serving seven to 22 years in a New York state prison.

Senegalese elected chief of FAO

ROME (AP) — Senegal's ambassador to the United Nations, Jacques Diouf, was elected chief of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on Monday after a Chilean rival withdrew and urged the post remain "in the developing world." Mr. Diouf succeeds Edouardo Saouma of Lebanon, who held the post for 18 years as the longest-serving head of a major U.N. organisation. The agency, which oversees many of the U.N. food and development programmes, employs 6,000 people and has a \$1 billion budget. Mr. Diouf defeated Australia's former secretary of industries and energy, Geoff Miller, who had been backed by the United States and other industrial powers.

U.N. delays vote on Libya sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Security Council postponed Monday an expected vote on new sanctions against Libya over the Lockerbie bombing until Thursday, at the request of Russia, diplomats said. The council is to vote on a draft resolution drawn up by Britain, France and the United States which would add economic sanctions to the air and arms embargo already in force against Tripoli. The three countries wanted the resolution to be voted Monday, but Russia said it was awaiting final instructions from Moscow.

Secrecy shrouds autonomy talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators resumed talks at a secret location here Monday to resolve differences which caused a breakdown in the Palestinian autonomy negotiations last week.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said a limited Israel-PLO "ad hoc committee" was meeting to discuss the problems which arose at the last round of talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabá.

"There is still no date for the resumption of the negotiations... we must wait the results of the committee's work," Mr. Arafat said in Brussels, following a meeting with European Community (EC) foreign ministers.

Official sources said the negotiators will continue secret talks in Cairo Tuesday and could then move the dialogue back to Tabá.

"If both sides agree, the negotiations will resume immediately in Tabá," one source said.

Egyptian, Palestinian and Israeli embassy officials refused to give any details on the talks.

Foreign Minister Amr Musa confirmed the talks were continuing in a secret location.

Members of the Palestinian delegation, headed by Nabil Shaath, had been seen in public until journalists took them on Monday. The Israeli team is led by Major-General Amnon Shahak.

A PLO official said negotiators wanted to keep the talks out of sight of journalists. Negotiators say the media harm talks by revealing concessions which both sides fear would turn public opinion against them.

Sources close to the meeting said the Israelis and the PLO were hoping for a repeat of their success in secret talks in Norway which gave birth to the landmark Palestinian self-rule

deal in Gaza and Jericho signed in Washington in September.

Each side has trimmed its delegation to four for the talks, the first since negotiations were suspended in Tabá last week.

At the centre of the negotiations are security arrangements and details of Israel's pullout from Jericho and Gaza under the terms of the PLO-Israel accord signed on Sept. 13.

The dialogue was suspended last week when Palestinian negotiators objected to Israeli proposals to continue policing part of the two areas.

PLO sources based in Tunis said the Palestinians received assurances from Egypt that the Israeli delegation would show "flexibility" in Monday's meeting about the interpretation of a clause on the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

A PLO delegation official said Monday the Palestinians may accept an Israeli military presence in the Gaza Strip, but only inside Jewish settlements.

"We can accept Israeli soldiers inside the settlements to protect the settlers, but not outside them," said the PLO source, who declined to be named.

The PLO would not tolerate "soldiers leaving the settlements to chase Palestinians."

The Palestinian delegation had quit the talks after accusing Israel of trying to renege on a commitment to withdraw all its troops from the Gaza Strip.

The PLO source said roads linking the settlements with Israel could be jointly patrolled by the Israelis and Palestinians, adding that the number of Israeli soldiers remaining in the strip under such circumstances "would not pose a problem."

The Israeli military would maintain its presence in the Gaza Strip during the first, three-year phase of autonomy, to protect settlements, which would be dismantled later.

Aid will be well spent, Arafat tells Europeans

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat called here Monday for strong European Community (EC) support of Palestinian autonomy, and gave the assurance that aid money would be well used.

He was speaking after a two-hour meeting with EC foreign ministers to discuss European backing for the Sept. 13 accord between Israel and the PLO for Palestinian autonomy.

EC officials said the event was important because many of the EC ministers had never met Mr. Arafat before.

The PLO leader said EC economic, political and psychological support was essential to rebuild Palestine.

"The occupying authorities (Israel) have devastated the economic infrastructure of Palestine," he told a press conference after the meeting.

Asked what guarantees he could give that international aid would be effectively spent, Mr. Arafat said: "The most important thing is that we have appointed the right people."

This was a reference to the Palestinian Economic De-

velopment and Reconstruction Agency headed by the PLO leader, which is liaising with a committee of donor countries.

"Our people are active and hardworking. They have helped in the development of many Arab countries," Mr. Arafat said.

International pledges of \$2 billion have already been made to support Palestinian autonomy, of which 500 million ECU (\$665 million) has been promised by the EC, over the next five years.

The EC has asked the Palestinians for a detailed account of how the money should be spent.

Mr. Arafat said aid money was needed to fund modest airports, ports, housing, hospitals, mobile health clinics, schools and municipal services such as energy.

The West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip have been selected as the first two areas to be given Palestinian self-government under the five-year autonomy accord.

"The European role is very important, not only in economic but also in political terms," Mr. Arafat told the news conference.

U.S. envoy sees 'seeds of hope in Somalia'

NAIROBI (Agencies) — An envoy of U.S. President Bill Clinton said Monday that "the seeds of hope" were growing in Somalia but added that people were concerned that humanitarian work should continue after U.S. troops withdrew.

"People are concerned because they want to see the continuation of the progress made," said Raymond Flynn, the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, who returned from a brief visit to the central Somali town of Baidoa Monday.

"Just one year ago people were starving and dying in the streets. Famine brought about by civil war has been very cruel to these determined people of Somalia, but the seeds of hope are planted and are beginning to grow," said Mr. Flynn, addressing a news conference here.

"Some may question and debate the military strategy by U.N. peacekeeping forces in Mogadishu, but nobody can argue with the fact that the United States' efforts as part of operation Restore Hope have saved thousands of lives."

"I met children and families who said they would be dead today if it were not for the

United States' involvement," Mr. Flynn said. "I couldn't be prouder to be an American."

He said French U.N. troops had escorted him during his visit as security was still shaky.

Mr. Flynn left for the Vatican on Monday after 10-day mission to East Africa during which he also visited AIDS-stricken parts of Uganda, and famine-wracked southern Sudan, devastated by war.

Mr. Flynn, who will report to President Bill Clinton, pledged continued U.S. support for the poorest continent.

"Africa may be termed the so-called forgotten continent but the children of Africa are not going to be termed the forgotten children as far as the United States is concerned," he said.

In Mogadishu, United Nations soldiers killed a Somali aid worker and wounded another on Monday, witnesses said. The U.N. denied its troops were responsible.

The witnesses said Malaysian U.N. peacekeepers opened fire indiscriminately into a crowd outside the offices of the international charity Care, hitting the two local workers.



An Israeli borderguard watches Palestinian demonstrators as they march on the Bethlehem-Hebron road to ask for the dismantling of all Jewish settlements (AFP photo)

Troops kill 1, destroy home, while settlers continue riots

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Jewish gunmen seriously wounded two Palestinians and the Israeli army destroyed an Arab home, killing a Palestinian inside, while settlers blocked Arabs from going to work Monday in a wave of protest over an attack on a settler leader, Palestinian and military sources said.

Israeli Radio said the "committee for highway security," a group set up by the militant anti-Arab movement Kach, shot the two Palestinians, whose vehicle was hit by a hail of bullets on the edge of the Kfar Tappuah settlement, between Ramallah and Nablus on the West Bank.

Thousands of settlers blocked roads on the Gaza Strip and West Bank for three hours on Monday morning before Israeli troops cleared the way.

However, settlers were still blocking the crossing point leading from Jenin in the West Bank to Megiddo in Israel, preventing Arabs from going to work.

Israeli troops destroyed a house in the occupied West Bank, killing a Palestinian who was inside, the army said.

An army spokesman said the man, allegedly armed with a submachinegun and a pistol, fired at an army patrol and refused to surrender when the army surrounded the house in the West Bank village of Beit Awra, near Hebron.

"When he refused to surrender the force opened fire," the spokesman said.

Four refugee camps near Israeli settlements in the strip — Deir Al Salah, Maghazi, Nusseirat and Bureij — were declared closed military zones by the Israeli army.

Settler spokesman Aharon Domb said the settlers would launch "new operations" in the next few days.

Hundreds of settlers demon-

strated in Jerusalem Sunday evening accusing the government of abandoning them following the Sept. 13 agreement for Palestinian autonomy.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin meanwhile vowed to halt Jewish settler attacks in occupied territories.

"The security forces for their part received orders to use all that is at their disposal within the law to prevent terror but also to uphold law and order on the part of the Jewish residents," Mr. Rabin told parliament.

Palestinian leader Faisal Al Hussein, who is close to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, accused Mr. Rabin's government of letting settlers attack Palestinians. He demanded settlements be dismantled despite the interim Israel-PLO accord allowing them to stay.

"What we see of the settlers' actions today and the Israeli army reaction gives us the right to say... that the army must withdraw and the settlements and settlers along with it," Mr. Hussein told a Jerusalem news conference.

"Otherwise we will be facing a new situation which is the closest thing to total chaos," he said.

Health Minister Haim Ramon, a leading dove in Mr. Rabin's cabinet, said the vicious circle of violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would not wreck the Sept. 13 accord.

Definite Mideast projects discussed in Denmark

COPENHAGEN (Agencies) — Officials from 42 nations on Monday began a session of the multilateral economic development working group, discussing infrastructure projects in the Middle East as part of the regional peace process.

The two-day talks were the fourth round of multilateral sessions, attended by some 200 representatives of the European Community (EC), the Nordic countries, the United States, Russia, Japan, China and Middle East nations.

Israel and some of the Arab states are taking part, but Syria and Lebanon are not, saying that progress should be made at the bilateral level with Israel before they join in multilateral talks.

The Copenhagen session, hosted by Denmark on behalf of the EC, will tackle projects in the fields of communication and agriculture, an official said.

"The atmosphere is very good and relaxed since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reached their historic agreement on self-rule for Palestinians in Israeli-occupied Jericho and the Gaza Strip," a member of the Danish delegation said.

On the agenda are 16 concrete EC infrastructure projects including linking Amman with Jericho and Jerusalem and a railroad giving Jordan's exports direct access to the Mediterranean Sea.

Also on the table is a feasibility study into a road between Aqaba and Egypt via Eilat in south Israel.

"We expect that a series of concrete projects and their financing will be decided here," said Alf Jonsson, head of the Danish delegation.

Egypt pursues bid to revive Syria-Israel talks

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hosni Mubarak's top political advisor said after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Monday he was hopeful stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks would resume.

"We are now on the process of preparing the proper climate for resumption of these talks in Washington," Osama Al Baz told Reuters after more than two hours of talks with Mr. Assad.

He said Egypt was determined to see the negotiations resume as soon as possible.

"We insist on getting a result out of our contacts, to see the Syrian-Israeli talks resume. We are optimistic and hope further contracts will lead to the resumption because this is a vital issue for all of us."

Dr. Baz said he conveyed a message to Mr. Assad from Mr. Mubarak "on the current developments in the region and the peace process."

Asked when he expects the Syrian-Israeli talks to resume in Washington, the Egyptian envoy said:

"We are aiming and working to get these talks resumed. We hope the bilateral talks would resume in Washington because that was the natural channel for achieving a progress. We believe there should be a progress on the Syrian track in particular."

Asked about ideas presented to Israel by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa to revive the peace negotiations with Syria, Dr. Baz said Mr. Musa's talks were mainly aimed at resuming the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks. These talks have resumed.

He said Israel should not ignore the talks with Syria in favour of concentrating on talks with the Palestinians after the signing of a Palestinian self-rule accord signed in September.

15 injured as Saudia jet catches fire in Manila

MANILA (Agencies) — Fifteen passengers were injured, one critically, when a Saudi Arabian Jumbo jet made an emergency landing in Manila after catching fire in mid-air, rescuers said.

The Saudia Boeing 747, carrying 211 passengers and 14 crew on a flight from Jeddah to Manila, was approaching the runway when the control tower told the pilot, Captain Abdul Kader, that its tail was smoking.

Alan Baranda, assistant chief of airport ground operations division, said that upon landing, Capt. Kader slammed on the brakes, ordered the doors opened and sent passengers down the emergency slide chutes.

The airport tower sounded a crash alert and within one minute firemen reached the scene, extinguishing within 30 seconds flames from the aircraft power unit in the tail section, he said.

Airport spokesman Alfredo

Vasquez said a 50-year-old Filipina, Lydia Cabangon, suffered a head fracture after her high-heeled shoes ruptured a chute, causing her to plunge to the tarmac.

She was still unconscious in hospital, several hours after the early morning accident.

Another Filipina suffered a broken leg after following Ms. Cabangon down. Most of the passengers were returning Filipino contract workers, who number in the hundreds of thousands in the Middle East.

A Saudia official said the fire was caused by an accident and ruled out suggestions of a "terrorist" attack on the aircraft, which arrived from Dhahran.

"There is no terrorist involved. It's simply an accident," Saudia's operations officer in Manila, Nazario Chamen, said by telephone.

Fire trucks followed the aircraft down the runway and poured foam on the tail where they could see flames licking out of a hole in the fuselage.

COLUMN

Picasso, Braques paintings stolen from museum

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Thieves lowered themselves from the roof of the Museum of Modern Art in downtown Stockholm and stole five Picasso paintings and other artwork valued at \$52 million, museum officials said Monday. Stolen sometime during the night were "eight of the museum's most important works: Five paintings and a statue by Picasso and two paintings by Georges Braques," museum spokeswoman Eva-Lena Lidman said. A security guard discovered the break-in Monday morning. There was no explanation why alarms did not go off or were not heard. The museum is located on a little island in Stockholm. The paintings were part of the museum's permanent exhibition. Curator Olle Granath said the works are well-known and would be impossible to sell on the open market. The Picassos were listed as *The Spring* (1921); *Dragonfly* (1929, when he started his cubist period); *The Painter* (1930, oil on wood); *Woman With Black Eyes* (also known as *Dora Maar*); and *Woman With Blue Collar* (1941). The 16-inch bronze sculpture *Woman* is from 1931. The stolen Braques were *Chateau La Roche-Guyon* (1909) and *Still Life* (1928). Picasso's *The Spring* depicts a woman lying on her side and was painted during Picasso's neo-classical period.

Clinton to sign 'living will'

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton said Sunday he is willing to sign a "living will" and make its contents public. Living wills allow people to order their doctors to pull the plug instead of prolonging their lives by artificial means in case they become unconscious and incapacitated. Asked on NBC's *Meet The Press* if he would publicly sign a living will, the president said: "Well, I certainly would sign one. I don't know if I would do it in public, but I'd be glad to tell you what's in it. I think families should think about living wills and should have them," he said. He said government should never impose living wills, but that the documents could weed out "extra costs that most people believe are unnecessary in the system." About one-third of America's health costs are for the last year of life. On the issue of his personal health Mr. Clinton, who exercises regularly and has reportedly changed his eating habits to lose weight, said he was making some headway. "I've lost weight and lost, I don't know, two or three inches off my waist," said Mr. Clinton, who jogs six days a week. "You just have to get up, sort of show up every day and try to make a little progress."

U.K. to ordain 1st woman priest next March

LONDON (AFP) — The first woman to be accepted into the priesthood of the Church of England will be ordained next March 12 in Bristol in the southwest, the Times reported Monday. The controversial honour will fall to Angela Berners-Wilson, 39, by dint of alphabetical order. The diocese of Bristol had held out for being the first to ordain a woman. Further ordinations of women will follow in Oxford, St. Albans, Liverpool, and Durham. Ms. Berners-Wilson became one of the first women deacons in March 1987, almost as soon as it was made legally possible for a woman to be a deacon. She is currently chaplain at the University of Bristol. "I am really looking forward to being able to celebrate the eucharist," she said. "I hope being a priest will be a real fulfilment of my vocation many years." The General Synod of the Church of England voted a year ago to accept women priests, a controversial move which saw Conservative Anglicans defect to the Roman Catholic Church. The High Court in London last month threw out a challenge by a Evangelical wing of the church, and the change was approved by the House of Lords Tuesday, having won the approval of the House of Commons on Oct. 29 by 21 votes to 21.